



MEDIA RELEASE

16 June, 2016

For Immediate Release

THE GOOD GUYS HELPS LAUNCH STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF MELBOURNE'S GROWING HOMELESS POPULATION

The Good Guys is today proud to help Youth Projects launch their redeveloped state-of-the-art Living Room facility in Melbourne's iconic Hosier Lane to address the needs of Melbourne's growing homeless population.

The Good Guys supplied all of the kitchen appliances for the training kitchen, the washers and dryers for the laundry facility as well as products such as MP3 players, laptops and TVs to help make the Living Room a place of social and personal development, conversation and comfort.

"Doing Good in the communities in which we operate is an important part of what it means to be a Good Guy," said a spokesperson from The Good Guys.

"One of our key objectives is to support Australia's most vulnerable through initiatives, actions and organisations that have a positive, ongoing and sustainable impact on people in the community who need it most and we are delighted to be part of a group of businesses that have joined together to donate products and services to create this amazing facility", they said.

Youth Projects' Chair Melanie Raymond said the Living Room will provide facilities and services that Melbourne's growing homeless population have said make the most difference to them, from a simple shower to laundry facilities, secure storage for their belongings and vital physical and mental health care.

"Melbourne's homeless are missing out on everyday life experiences and amenities that we all take for granted. The relaunch of Youth Projects' Living Room will give the homeless access to healthy food, showers, laundry services, GPs and nurses, podiatrists and mental health services, and a new life skills centre to boost the transition from homelessness into housing," Melanie said.



Melanie said the Living Room, which has been operating for 15 years, had become run-down and lacked the space to accommodate the vast amount of people who need help.

“We have had to facilitate over 8,500 episodes of care for Melbourne’s homeless in the past 12 months, an increase from 6,000 last year, and have struggled to provide this care with limited resources and run-down facilities,” she added.

The redeveloped Living Room features a training kitchen for clients to learn to prepare healthy food, free medical services including regular GPs, podiatrists, a midwife and night nurses, new bathroom and laundry facilities for regular showers and clean clothes, access to computers, lockers for the homeless to store their belongings and safe living spaces for art therapy, relaxing and talking and employment and training pathways.

Having worked closely with Orange Sky Laundry, the world’s first mobile laundry for the homeless, over the past year The Good Guys is keenly aware that the number of Australians who are homeless or sleeping rough continues to rise and breaking the cycle of homelessness is an ongoing challenge that Australian businesses can’t shy away from.

“The problem is complex, and one that the team at Youth Projects tackles head on every day of the week, every week of the year. The pressure on organisations like theirs just keeps getting greater, and their unwavering determination to help those in need is simply inspirational,” stated a spokesperson from The Good Guys.

“We hope that what we have helped to create with this redeveloped centre can deliver hope, direction, support and joy to everyone who makes use of it,” they concluded.

The Good Guys partnered with Hickory Constructions and Elenberg Fraser on the project which was valued at \$500,000.

-ENDS-

For media enquires or further information, please contact:

mediaenquiries@thegoodguys.com.au