



YOUR CHARITY

Speech notes: National Chairman

In response to the Lord Mayor's speech.

Thank you Lord Mayor for your warm welcome and good evening ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Property Industry Foundation Board and corporate supporters, I'd like to firstly thank the City of Sydney team and councillors for hosting this evening tonight

I'd also particularly like to welcome to the Foundation's corporate donors and major supporters and thank you all for your continued support of the property industry's charity of choice.

As an industry, we wholeheartedly agree that to maintain harmony and cohesion in our communities, we need to look out for the marginalised and less privileged people – especially young Australians who are homeless, or who are at risk of homelessness.

The property and construction industry is proud to work alongside the City of Sydney combining our time, expertise and resources so that together we can tackle this important community issue.

As you have noted, it is our industry's responsibility as much as it is the government's role to provide leadership and inspiration to make a tangible difference to our disadvantaged communities.

As you may be aware, the Property Industry Foundation has established an employment program that is placing young people who have lived at risk or have been homeless, into jobs in our industry.

We are proud to say that our REBUILD A YOUNG LIFE PROGRAM, in partnership with the Salvation Army Oasis Get-Ready-for-Work program, has placed 10 young people in jobs across our industry. Three of these young people have received The Greg Paramor Scholarship for achieving their first 12 months in their jobs.

The scholarships provide further education and living-assistance and in August this year, there will be 5 more young people who will receive this additional support.

Our inaugural Host Companies are proud of this initiative and we thank **Mirvac, St Hilliers, Australand, Lend Lease, Group GSA, DEXUS Property Group and Colliers International for their support.**

On behalf of our Board and industry at large, I would now like to extend a couple of special “thank yous”.

As many of you know, Brendan Crotty – our recently retired Chairman - pioneered the Rebuild-a-Young-Life initiative has passionately been working alongside the City of Sydney to find suitable accommodation for the young people who will be participating in our employment program, who do not have somewhere stable or safe to live.

And I am pleased to announce this evening that the City of Sydney has not only found us a suitable building to meet our program’s needs, but has also provided the building to the Foundation for 5 years under a concessional arrangement so we can refurbish it to meet the young people’s needs.

The building at 90 Regent Street, Redfern, is close to public transport and facilities, and will house 8 young people in their OWN bedrooms, and accommodate live-in parents to further help them with their new lives.

The foundation has committed to contributing \$250,000 to refurbish the building and in addition, the City of Sydney are also providing substantial financial support and building support – a very generous contribution that truly demonstrates building strong relationships between industry and government.

We are also extremely fortunate to have received a range of generous in-kind services from across our industry. It would be remiss of me not to mention the many hours of dedication by

Dino Di Paolo – Suters Architects

Shayne Taylor – Muller Partnerships

Ron Heinrich – TressCox Lawyers

Kevin Knee – City of Sydney, and

Alec Horley – PIF’s own project manager

who have already donated a lot of time and expertise to bring the project to its current development stage. So thank you to you Brendan, and, your project team.

PIF's vision is to unite the entire national property and construction industry to support homeless young people nationally and regionally. It's all about relationships and this initiative is a great example of how industry has partnered with local government to change young people's lives for the better

Lord Mayor, **a very special thank you** to you and the City of Sydney for partnering with us, to help reach our vision to provide a safe home for young Australians in need. Your support, and generosity, is very much appreciated – THANK YOU.

On a finishing note, I would like to thank the industry for helping us to raise much needed funds for our homeless children in our recent Charity Yachting Regatta.

I would like to particularly thank **Colliers International – our event's Principal Sponsor**. Without your generous financial support, we could not have achieved our record amount of **\$410,000** net.

Thank you to all those companies who participated in this great fundraising event.

Our next fundraising initiative is **NATIONAL HARD HAT CAMPAIGN** – your workplace giving program, so please sign up and get your management team and staff involved.

And the next fundraising event is the **ANNUAL CYCLING & CAR CHALLENGE** to be held **Sunday 7th August**. Please see Peta Gorman, our events manager tonight, to register now! Thank again for your support and have a fabulous evening.