



Charity Youth Programs

An Initiative of the Property Industry Foundation



The Exodus Foundation, *Redfern* est. 1986

Exodus's mission is to meet the material, emotional and spiritual needs of disadvantaged and marginalised young people. They seek to empower young Australians through education and literacy and so as to protect them against the prospect of future unemployment and homelessness.

How do they help youth homelessness and young people at risk?

Exodus provides young underprivileged children with the opportunity to broaden their reading and literacy skills through their MULTILIT, (Making up Lost Time in Literacy) and MINILIT, (Meeting Initial Needs of Literacy) programs at the Redfern Literacy Tutorial Centre. The Foundation provides these educational services free of charge and they're delivered in a classroom appropriate setting off site from a child's mainstream school. Disadvantaged children, aged 6 to 12 years, and who come from a low socio-economic background and whose family does not have access to private tuition are identified through local schools and are encouraged to enroll. These students are released for three hours, five mornings per week by the school. Exodus provides transport to the Literacy Tutorial Centre. As well as trained professionals, there is the opportunity for people to volunteer their time to help the children within their reading and literacy lessons.

The most significant result achieved from this program is the prevention of chronic unemployment for young people, suffering illiteracy which in the long term leads to youth homelessness.

What is the program that PIF is funding?

The Foundation is providing sponsorship of literacy teacher of Indigenous & Non-Indigenous school children at The Exodus Foundation - Redfern Tutorial Centre for 12 months. The Centre uses an innovative accelerated literacy program designed for children, and who have failed to learn to read by the usual methods in the first few years of school. Both the MULTILIT and MINILIT programs apply a non-categorical approach to instruction; in other words not labelling a child using the "Principles of Positive Teaching" guide, implemented with particular emphasis on data-based instruction classroom behaviour management; and an interactive model of literacy instruction.

To be eligible, potential students must be indigenous, a minimum 2 years behind their peers in literacy and from a low socio-economic background (this is tested by Exodus's program partner, Macquarie University.)

Why did PIF believe that the program needed funding assistance?

Property Industry Foundation recognizes that The Exodus Foundation's early intervention MULTILIT and MINILIT programs lead to improved development with disadvantaged children and an important initiative in the prevention of more young people being unemployed and homeless. Annually, Exodus effectively supports up to 108 school children, who've gained literacy levels equal to or greater than their chronological age and national standards; greatly increasing the children's ability to successfully address problems associated with lack of literacy, loss of identity, and underdeveloped communication skills for the rest of their life.

What is the total cost of this program?

\$45,000.00

How much did the PIF Board approve for this program?

\$45,000.00