

Charity Building Projects

An initiative of the Property Industry Foundation



The Exodus Foundation, *Ashfield* 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?

One of their programs, "Schoolwise", is an intensive and systematic literacy skills program for children in Years 1, 2, 5 and 6 at risk of dropping out of school due to childhood depression, violence, family disintegration, education disruption and learning disabilities. 'Schoolwise' was so named because it provides students with the opportunity of graduating from being 'streetwise' to become 'schoolwise'.

What is the project that PIF is funding?

Refurbishment of the old Ashfield School of Arts Building

The School of Arts building, which was built in 1913, is a two storey building with office space and a large hall which has not been occupied for 20 years. To accommodate more disadvantaged students the conversion of the space into a community centre was required. Improvements include: internal structural fitout and interior design of the first storey community hall; and new interior design of upstairs rooms into teacher's office space and other necessary refurbishment of bathroom amenities.

Why did PIF believe that the project needed funding assistance?

As the Schoolwise program leads to improved development through early intervention with students, the Foundation identified this as an important initiative to prevent more young people being unemployed and homeless. PIF recognizes that early intervention increases students ability to address problems associated with lack of literacy, loss of identity, underdeveloped communication skills, limited employment options, substance abuse, crime, unemployment, domestic violence, youth suicide.

The refurbishment of the building, allowed for the Schoolwise program to be moved into the refurbished School of Arts building. This expansion allows for necessary space in supporting youth programs.

What is the total cost of this project?

\$944,888.00

How much did the PIF Board approve for this project?

\$280, 000

The Project Team who are providing in-kind professional services to PIF.



Jo Campbell, *Project Manager*