

# Charity Building Projects

An initiative of the Property Industry Foundation



## Father O'Riley's Youth Off the Streets, *Sutton Forest* est. 1991

Youth Off the Streets (YOTS) Youth Off The Streets supports chronically homeless and drug addicted young Australians as they work to turn their lives around. YOTS's programs are non-denominational and non-discriminatory. They have an accredited independent school located in Sutton Forest, (Southern Highlands), which provides flexible education and support for disadvantaged youths who are unable to attend mainstream high schools.

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

YOTS staff at Sutton Forest provide counselling in a caring environment for destitute adolescents, who's problems include drug and alcohol abuse and chronic criminal activity. In addition, the farm offers 24 hour care, together with programs including residential (farm life/work experience) educational (on campus school/ TAFE Colleges) and employment services.

### What is the project that PIF is funding?

PIF donations contributed towards purchasing (4) (6)-bedroom houses from the 2000 Olympic Games Village for youth accommodation on the YOTS Sutton Forest Campus. The houses were joined and customised to achieve two, (10)-bedroom lodgings. Improvements to the kit houses included: installing roof trusses, new kitchens, plumbing, airconditioners, building brick foundations, installing handicapped bathrooms, supplying whitegoods, fitting new sliding doors and windows and re-tiling. Structural additions to the houses involved constructing two carports and installing underground septic systems and water tanks.

### Why did PIF believe that the project needed funding assistance?

PIF recognised that YOTS vital accommodation, training and counselling for homeless youth at risk combined with schooling, has proven successful for previously troubled boys. They leave the program drug free, together with a high school education often with a full or part time job. YOTS give them the skills to return to the community to lead a safe, healthy and respectful life.

### What is the total cost of this project?

**\$850,000**

### How much did the PIF Board approve for this project?

**PIF Funding: \$186, 000**

**In-kind Donations: \$318, 000**

Previous Projects:

Construction of an 11 bedroom youth accommodation facility located in Canyonleigh.

Funded a Cattle Drive designed for youth who were taught to drive cattle (from VIC to NSW).

### The Project Team who have provided in-kind professional services to PIF.



John Ferrarin, *Director*



Tony Quinn, *Principal*