



***Press Release***

***16 January, 2009***

### **PIF helps open new ‘Street University’**

The latest Property Industry Foundation (PIF) project to benefit the Ted Noffs Foundation is now complete; with the Speed Street University building in Liverpool, New South Wales, now open as a centre for disadvantaged young people.

Located at 1 Speed Street, the 1900 square metre university building was refurbished as a joint project between PIF and the Mount Pritchard & District Community Club, more widely known as “Mounties”.

Australia’s first “Street University” was officially opened by high profile U.S hip hop artists Public Enemy, who were in Australia and keen to get involved once they heard about the project.

The project will run in partnership with The University of NSW to provide the youth of Liverpool and surrounding areas with access to free education programs and activities.

Worth a total of \$890,000, the project also benefitted from pro-bono services by project manager and quantity surveyor at 1 Speed Street, Gleeds Australia, as well as designers Crone Partners Architects.

“We are very proud to once again be working with the Ted Noffs Foundation in creating a new space for disadvantaged youth where they can get help with homework, participate in music and art workshops and

simply receive ongoing support for as long as they need it," said PIF Chief Executive Officer Rosemary Smithson.

Gleeds managing director David Kelly said that he was approached to draw together a design team in mid 2006 to prepare the conversion of an existing car repair and maintenance warehouse into the new Street University.

"The project consisted of constructing new amenities block classrooms, a sound recording studio and a general purpose sports court and café," he said.

PIF has supported the Ted Noffs Foundation for the past three years and in this time has helped in developing the centre's curriculum, as well as sourcing architectural and engineering services.

"For the first year that the centre is open, we are also funding a full time staff member, Kal Vignhesa, who will act as Program Co-ordinator to manage the centre's education programs and volunteers," Smithson added.

The programs offered at the centre are geared towards young people at risk of drug and alcohol problems, mental health issues and homelessness.

"We believe in the work that the Ted Noffs Foundation does in that the programs it runs are not bandaid solutions," Smithson said.

"The Foundation runs comprehensive life management programs designed to equip youths with the skills to better manage their lives."

PIF said that the centre now offers free art, music, technology and business classes to youth who could not otherwise have afforded them, and also provides them with access to educational opportunities that would otherwise be out of their reach.

Work on the one level plus mezzanine building commenced in August 2008.

Since PIF's inception in 1996, more than \$12 million has been raised for a range of PIF approved charities through its core fundraising activities.

These activities include annual events such as the Yachting Regatta, National Hard Hat Day and Charity Car Rally Challenge.

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