

MEDIA RELEASE
29 July 2008



The Hon. Kate Ellis MP, Federal Minister for Youth, Federal Minister for Sport to address Youth Off The Streets Open Day on the importance of early intervention and community engagement.

On Wednesday 30 July, Youth Off The Streets, a not-for-profit community organisation working for young people who are chronically homeless, drug dependent and recovering from abuse, will offer the opportunity for the community, media and education specialists to witness first hand the services and benefits it brings to the young people in its care.

Father Riley, CEO and Founder, Youth Off The Streets said, "Open Day is an opportunity to publicise our services so that more youth in need know they are not alone and that they can come to us for help. It also gives our supporters and the broader community the opportunity to witness our commitment to providing high quality and transparent services for young Australians."

Emphasising Father Riley's long held belief in the Native American Indian concept that "It takes a whole village to raise a child," **The Hon. Kate Ellis MP**, Federal Minister for Youth, Federal Minister for Sport, will address visitors on the importance of early intervention and community engagement.

The Hon. Kate Ellis MP said: "Each day in Australia there are thousands of young people at risk from illicit drugs, alcohol abuse and homelessness. These are challenges that require the attention of governments at all levels, as well as the wider community if we're to address them successfully. Youth Off The Streets provides vital services to young people at risk and I urge everyone to support the important work they do."

The Macquarie Group Foundation will announce at the 2008 Open Day their continued support of Youth Off The Streets.

Julie White, Head of the Macquarie Group Foundation said, "The Macquarie Group Foundation has been in partnership with Youth Off The Streets since 2002 and it is a major youth welfare initiative that we are very proud of. Today, we are delighted to pledge our further support with the announcement of a new two-year capacity building grant that will allow Youth Off The Streets to achieve their next stage of growth and, in turn, increase the capacity and ability of Youth Off The Streets to provide greater assistance and guidance to those in need.

Father Riley said, "*The Macquarie Group Foundation has a long history of community engagement and support. We are thrilled that this year, the Foundation will assist Youth Off The Streets with a continuous improvement program that will ensure we continue to set the standard in best practice service delivery for*

disadvantaged and at risk youth,” said “*We thank the Foundation for supporting Youth Off The Streets in our mission to ensure that every young person has the opportunity to discover their greatness within,* ” he continued.

The 2008 Open Day will showcase the educational support services provided by Youth Off The Streets that rely on community support with a focus on Service Learning, McIntosh House semi-independent living and Chapel School.

Youth Off The Streets would like to thank its corporate supporters Macquarie Group Foundation, PepsiCo and Merrylands RSL.

MEDIA / PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Date	Wednesday 30 July, 2008
Time	09:30hrs – 13:00hrs
Venue	Youth Off The Streets, 102 Kenyons Road, MERRYLANDS 2160
Who	The Hon. Kate Ellis MP; The Hon. David Borger MP; Father Chris Riley, CEO and Founder, Youth Off The Streets, Richard Gibbs, Global Head of Economics, Macquarie Group.

Note to the Editor:

Father Chris Riley, members of the Youth Off The Streets Board of Directors and Senior Managers will be available for interview between 11:05 – 11:35am. Images will be available, please contact Ina Mullin:
Email: inam@youthoffthestreets.com.au or ph: 02 8332 5000

Youth Off The Streets Mission:

Helping disconnected young people to discover greatness within, by engaging, supporting and providing opportunities to encourage and facilitate positive life choices.

About Youth Off The Streets:

Youth Off The Streets is a non-denominational community organisation working for young people who are chronically homeless, drug dependent and recovering from abuse. We support these young people as they work to turn their lives around and overcome immense personal traumas such as neglect and physical, psychological and emotional abuse.

Since opening in 1991, Youth Off The Streets has grown from a single food van delivering meals to young homeless people on the streets of Kings Cross to a major youth specific agency providing a wide range of services offering a full continuum of care.

It is our goal that these young people will leave our care drug free, with a high school education, living skills and a full or part time job in hand. To donate to Youth Off The Streets, please call: 1800 06 22 88 or visit: www.youthoffthestreets.com.au

About Macquarie Group Foundation

The Macquarie Group Foundation – the philanthropic arm of the Macquarie Group – has been providing support to community programs for more than 35 years. In the year to March 2008, the Macquarie Group Foundation, together with Macquarie Group staff efforts, contributed more than \$23 million to over 800 community organisations around the world.

For more information, please contact Youth Off The Streets:

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