

MEDIA RELEASE
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Youth Off The Streets Key College highly commended at the 2009 Australian Awards for Teaching Excellence

Key College, the Youth Off The Streets school for homeless and disadvantaged teenagers, has received a Highly Commended Award for Excellence by a School and its Community at the Federal Government's 2009 Australian Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard presented the award at the Great Hall of Parliament House, Canberra on Thursday October 30, 2009.

On receiving the award, Key College Principal, Mrs Lou Single commented:

"The award reflects the high level of dedication and commitment Youth Off The Streets staff, sponsors and the community have to working together to get a better outcome for homeless and disadvantaged young people."

This recognition is testament to the value and success of the Key College program, in which both trained and supportive staff have endeavoured to break the cycle of disadvantage amongst the young people they assist. A holistic approach to education, encompassing a flexible curriculum, stable learning environment, and individualised support, has ensured that the College truly meets the needs, interests, and talents of its students.

"The award is a great coup for Youth Off The Streets as a whole, however it would not have been achieved without the tireless work of the teachers and volunteers at Key College. Their commitment to educating young people in need has fostered positive and healthier lifestyles amongst students, and we congratulate them on receiving this well deserved recognition," continued Mrs Single.

A grant of \$15,000 was awarded to Key College; the funds will be used to assist in the running cost of the schools three campuses, Eden, Chapel and Surry Hills

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 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

**For more information, about Youth Off The Streets please contact:
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