



Open Family Australia
...knows the street.

NEWS ALERT
23 April, 2009

GOVERNOR-GENERAL MEETS WITH HOMELESS YOUTH

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and the Hon. John Brumby MP, Premier of Victoria, visited Open Family Australia's Footscray office on April 23.

Open Family Australia street outreach workers briefed the Governor-General and Premier on the issues facing homeless young people and the organisation's programs. The Governor-General and Premier then spoke to a number of Open Family Australia's clients about the impact the organisation has had on their lives.

Open Family Australia's Chief Executive Officer, Sue Renkin, said that worsening economic conditions have resulted in an increased demand for the organisation's services at a time when financial support and resources are limited.

"The interest shown by both the Governor-General and the Premier in the plight of Australia's at-risk and homeless youth is heartening as an increased awareness of youth specific issues is required to effectively address this critical issue" Sue said.

Open Family Australia will launch its major annual appeal, The Longest Night, at their gala dinner on May 9 at the Grand Hyatt. This year's appeal will focus on getting people to donate \$21 by June 21st which is the longest night of the year. People who join the Appeal will be asked to find five friends who will donate \$21 each also. A donation of \$21 will provide a hot meal for a young person, five people donating \$21 each will give a homeless person a place to sleep for a night.

Open Family Australia has been providing outreach support and services to at-risk and homeless youth for more than 30 years. Father Bob Maguire, who founded Open Family, resigned in 2006 to pursue his personal charities.

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For more information contact Sue Renkin, Chief Executive Officer, 0418 554 981.