

## **Background Briefing Note – Thursday 16 October 2008**

### **Frankston Furniture Works and Rosebud Facility to conclude operations end November**

During 2008, a comprehensive review of the BSL's Furniture Works has been undertaken and it became evident that it is not possible to keep the Frankston Furniture Works facility open into 2009.

The facility has played a very important role at the BSL in providing training opportunities and personal support to a large number of young people in particular over the last decade. In more recent times, however, the BSL has not been able to attract the level of funding required to keep this facility operating at its previous high levels, and an exhaustive review of practical options was undertaken by external consultants.

Once that review was received within Community Services a further series of internal discussions were held to canvass how the best elements of the Furniture Works model could be accommodated into an ongoing presence for the BSL in Frankston and on the peninsular.

After full consideration of all available options at Frankston it has been decided to cease operations at both the Rosella St site in Frankston and at the Rosebud facility at end November. Any queries you may have about the impact of this decision may have on your day to day involvement with FFW can be directed to Jim Williamson, Community Services – 9483 1115, or email [jwilliamson@bsl.org.au](mailto:jwilliamson@bsl.org.au).

A large part of the ongoing day to day activity at Furniture Works in relation to Community Enterprise will continue under the management of Greg Bosch – Manager Community Enterprises. The BSL has important community enterprise contracts on the peninsular which will continue to be delivered into 2009 as part of a wider community enterprise program across a range of sites in Victoria.

With the opening of the BSL High Street Centre in Frankston, the Manager of High Street will now have the ongoing and major responsibility for planning and delivering personal and training support to young people and services with disadvantaged people more generally within the Frankston and Mornington areas, especially through the development of a new VCAL program for 2009.

The BSL is also undertaking a major information and planning exercise to develop a more integrated and responsive approach to employment, training and enterprise opportunities for highly disadvantaged persons.

Prepared by:

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