

Michael Wilson

From: Cara Devaney on behalf of Sarina Greco
Sent: Thursday, 27 November 2008 10:16 AM
To: Everybody
Subject: Update for Staff on Furniture Works and Employment Services
Importance: High

Dear Colleagues

The Brotherhood is moving into a new phase of its work in two key areas: *helping people into work* and in *education and training pathways for young people*.

Furniture Works (FW) concludes its work on 27 November 08

During 2008, the BSL commissioned an independent and comprehensive review of Frankston Furniture Works (FFW) at both the Frankston and Rosebud sites. As a result of this review, it became evident that it is not possible to keep the Frankston Furniture Works facility open into 2009.

Furniture Works has played an important role in providing training opportunities and personal support to a large number of young people in the Frankston Mornington Peninsula area over the last decade but 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. We are looking at how some of the best elements of the Furniture Works model can be accommodated into an ongoing presence for the BSL in Frankston and on the Mornington Peninsula. We thank Tony McLaine, Charmian Dainton and Anthony Brennan, and the team of FW volunteers, for their tireless commitment and dedication to young people and their development and welfare over the past decade.

Increased role for the High Street Centre in delivering youth training and support in Frankston and Mornington Peninsula

With the opening of the Brotherhood's High Street Centre in Frankston in May 2008, the planning and delivery of personal and training support to young people and services with disadvantaged people more generally within the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula areas will be with the new Manager of the High Street Centre, Neil Klemm.

A New Employment Service Model

With the current Employment Services contracts concluding in June 2009, we will not be running Government Employment Services. Instead, we are developing an employment service model that will work with various partners to meet employer demands for labour, address high levels of unemployment in the Fitzroy/Collingwood public housing estates, and create traineeship opportunities through community enterprises. A feasibility study for this work is being led by May Lam (9483 1128) and is expected to be completed early in 2009.

In the meantime the BSL will continue to provide a combination of training and enterprise activity into and beyond 2009 via our Group Training Company and Community Enterprises as part of the BSL's commitment to economic and social participation for disadvantaged people. Jim Williamson (9483 1115) is the Acting Senior Manager responsible for the daily operations of Community and Employment Development.

Sarina

Sarina Greco | General Manager | Community Services |