

# BROTHERHOOD Action

## Last minute reprieve for JPET program

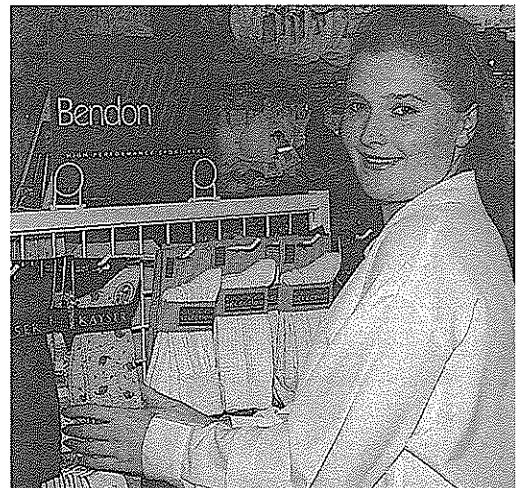
*A breakfast organised to mark the closure of a successful employment program for young people has led to a last-minute reprieve for the program.*

Oakleigh JPET (Jobs, Placement, Employment and Training) is an employment program for disadvantaged young people, first piloted in Australia by the Brotherhood of St Laurence. It has assisted 145 homeless young people, and has had an 80 per cent success rate in placing people in employment. There are now 45 similar programs throughout Australia, including a second JPET program auspiced by the Brotherhood which operates in Barwon.

JPET provides its clients with three months of accredited training, primarily in retail work skills. They learn job search skills, computer skills, customer service, interview presentation, and interpersonal skills. After the training period, they are assisted to find and retain employment, continuing to receive both personal and work-related support.

But when the Federal Government decided to adopt a Case Management approach to employment programs, JPET seemed set to close. Workers at the Brotherhood's Employment Action Centre feared that Case Management would not meet the needs of JPET clients, many of whom are long-term unemployed.

In late June the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Simon Crean, came to a breakfast organised by EAC workers to farewell



*JPET trainee Angie on the job.*

the Oakleigh JPET program. He was so impressed with what he saw that he was determined to help keep it going.

'After the breakfast, the minister's office contacted us that same day, asking that we put together a proposal to extend the program,' said Deputy Manager, Maria Alibrando. 'We've now put together a new model for the program, and will be working out with the department how this could be applied.'

The new model will provide a program for disadvantaged young people who are not yet ready for the Case Management approach. Other JPET programs can also use this model when they apply for funding.

In the meantime, the Oakleigh program has received interim funding, which is also available to other JPET programs.

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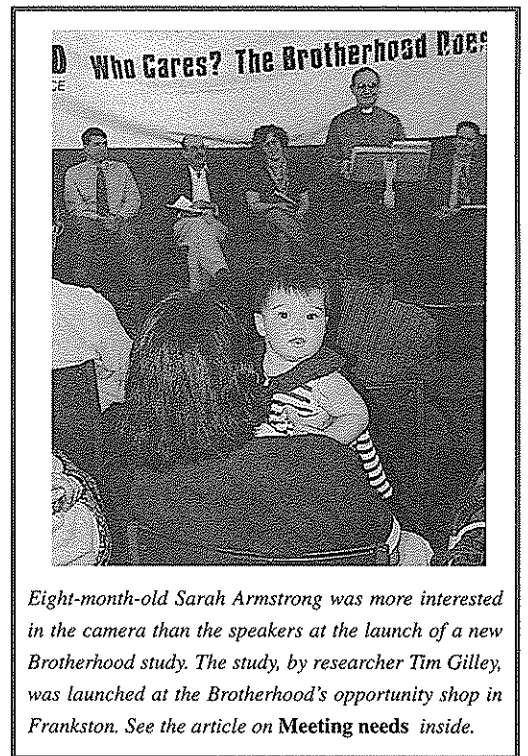
## New project launched for homeless young people

A new Brotherhood project for unemployed and homeless young people is underway in Oakleigh. The Youth Employment Action Centre was launched in November by local MP Mr Alan Griffin and Executive Director of the Brotherhood Bishop Michael Challen.

The Centre, in Eaton Street Oakleigh, provides support and training aimed at getting homeless young people 15 to 21 years into employment or further study. The Centre offers young people help with preparation of resumes, the use of phones and postage facilities as well as information and advice on other services and training opportunities.

The opening of the new Centre follows the closure of the Job Placement Employment and Training program, an innovative and highly successful program established in Oakleigh by the Brotherhood in November 1992 and funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Housing.

This project was the first of its type in Australia and achieved an 80 per cent success rate in placing people in employment. More than 40 similar projects were set up in Australia by various agencies following the Brotherhood initiative.



*Eight-month-old Sarah Armstrong was more interested in the camera than the speakers at the launch of a new Brotherhood study. The study, by researcher Tim Gilley, was launched at the Brotherhood's opportunity shop in Frankston. See the article on Meeting needs inside.*

Unable to meet funding guidelines by the Department of Housing and Health the project was forced to close in September 1994. At an event held to mark its closure, Simon Crean, Minister for Employment Education and Training, was so impressed with what the program had achieved that he was determined that the solid foundation laid by the pilot project should not be allowed to fade.

Subsequent funding from the Department of Education Employment and Training enabled the establishment of the Youth Employment Action Centre.

The Brotherhood hopes that its initiative can assist in re-establishing such programs throughout Australia

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