



BROTHERHOOD Action

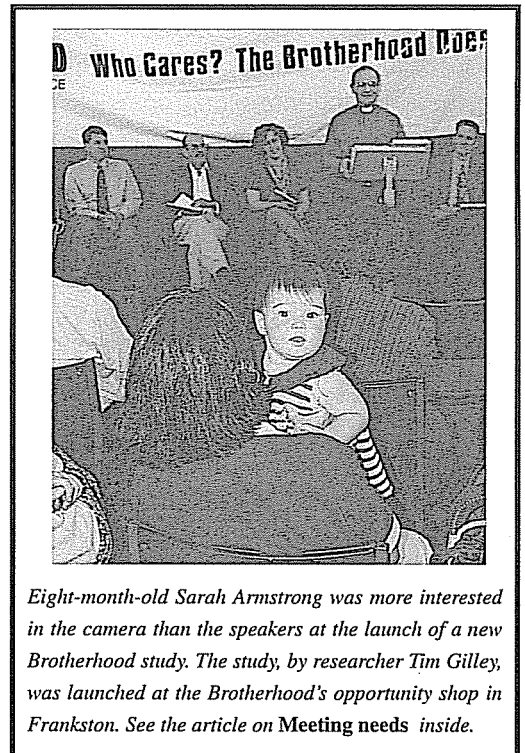
New project launched for homeless young people

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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