



**EMBARGOED 5 May 2008 – 10:30am**

**THE SNOW FOUNDATION MEDIA RELEASE MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008**

The Snow Foundation has agreed to replace a Community bus, administered by the YWCA of Canberra. The new \$50,000, 14 seat Toyota Hiace, replaces a similar vehicle which was stolen from the Lanyon Community Centre in June 2006, and not recovered.

Snow Foundation Chief Executive Officer, Ms Georgina Byron, today formally handed over the keys of the new minibus to the YWCA Lanyon Community Development program, during a regular meeting of the Lanyon Valley Senior Citizens group. “The bus provides a very valuable service to the Lanyon community and we are delighted to see it back on the road,” she said. The Foundation also agreed to meet the ongoing costs of registration, insurance and maintenance.

The Snow Foundation has fully supported a community bus for the Lanyon community since 2001. “Local community groups have greatly missed the benefits of the YWCA’s bus,” Ms Byron said. So much so that the YWCA is already taking enquiries regarding bookings for the bus, which operates free of charge to community groups. The YWCA only requires that the bus be returned in a clean condition and with a full tank of petrol.

The bus will be used by a range of community groups, such as the seniors wanting to visit local exhibitions and youth groups going to the coast on camping holidays. “The Snow Foundation chooses to support this kind of community service because of the positive difference it can make to the lives of people.” Ms Byron said.

Accepting the bus, the YWCA of Canberra’s Executive Director, Rebecca Vassarotti, said “The minibus offers a unique service in the Lanyon area, enabling community participation in a range of activities which would not be possible without the Snow Foundation’s generous support. In the six months prior to the theft, 19 different community groups had used the bus, for a total of 149 days out of the 170 days in which the bus was available for use”.

In the 18 years since it was established, the Snow Foundation has provided assistance to more than 110 different community organisations and individuals. It was established by Terry Snow and George Snow to provide help to the disadvantaged and vulnerable.

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