

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Canberra PCYC launches Youth Mobile Training Van

Canberra PCYC and The Snow Foundation have unveiled a new Youth Mobile Training Van, the 'Cruisin Café', which provides vocational training for vulnerable young people

The official unveiling was by His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), and his wife, Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley at Brindabella Business Park on Wednesday 14 October.

"Life cannot be kind to some people through no fault of their own, and it is organisations like PCYC, that don't judge but reach out and help young people," he said. "This is just another enormous opportunity for these youngsters to learn."

Cheryl O'Donnell, CEO Canberra PCYC Cheryl O'Donnell said this mobile training van provides an alternative and innovative way to learn. "This program is designed to help these youth become their best. Not only will these they gain qualifications in Hospitality and Barista, but they will also be supported by a dedicated team, who can help them manage the issues that may be holding them back," she said.

The Crusin Café is a social enterprise, which will be mobile on the streets with all income going back into the program - a first for the ACT region. The program provides on the job training opportunities linked to an employment service who will work alongside Canberra PCYC in engaging potential employers for work experience and paid employment, helping to break the welfare cycle.

Canberra PCYC works with over 650 young people and families each year. They know each young person learns in a different way and some struggle with being in mainstream education due to other issues, including mental health, peer pressures, drug and alcohol abuse and domestic violence.

Stephen Byron, Director of The Snow Foundation, says, 'This is a great example of how we can help fill the gaps with a one-off grant, to help grassroots entrepreneurial initiatives like this get off the ground. And to help people reach their potential by creating new and different pathways that lead them to a better future.'

Cheryl O'Donnell said this has been a true collaboration with many organisations putting their hand up to get involved, "I'd like to thank **The Snow Foundation** who provided the grant to purchase the purpose-built vehicle; **Food Trailer King** who upgraded the van to a supersize model at no extra cost, **Cosmorex Coffee** for providing the coffee machine and coffee supply, **College of Transformation Education & Training** for the training program in Certificates in Hospitality and Barista, **Salvation Army Employment plus** – who will work with potential employers to place young people into traineeships and **Boorer Foundation** and **Hands Across Canberra** for providing funding towards the staff start-up wage. We are so proud and could not have done this without all your help".

#### Media contact

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