

## **\$1 million for youth employment in Melbourne's North**

**The Inner North Community Foundation will celebrate its official launch with a \$1 million donation from Apprenticeships Plus on Thursday 21 February 2008 at the Northcote Town Hall.**

The Inner North Community Foundation will receive a **further \$4 million** from Apprenticeships Plus over subsequent years, cementing its place as a valuable source of funding to community groups working to decrease employment hurdles faced by young people in Darebin, Moreland and Yarra.

Community groups in the Darebin, Moreland and Yarra areas will be able to apply for funding for projects that support young people who are disadvantaged in their access to work opportunities, for example English classes to young people who are migrants or refugees, job readiness programs to young people who need interviewing and resume writing training, programs that aim to keep young people engaged in learning for longer and similar.

The Inner North Community Foundation is an independent philanthropic foundation established through a donation by founding donor, Apprenticeships Plus; a group training company based in Northcote with a focus on northern metropolitan Melbourne, which employs over 600 apprentices and trainees at over 300 businesses. Hon. Alan Brown, Chairman of the Inner North Community Foundation, believes the Foundation is an investment in the future of Melbourne's north; "Our funding is exclusively available to local community groups and aims to tackle the barriers facing young men and women as they navigate their way into employment. Families and businesses have an exciting chance to get involved in philanthropy in their own neighbourhood and help us to ensure our funding program is continually growing."

The Foundation also aims to facilitate discussion around the challenges young people face in securing jobs locally. "There are many reasons behind our focus on young people and employment; the region has undergone a significant shift away from manufacturing; many of the same jobs now require higher qualifications; and the casualisation of work has decreased long-term job security. The Foundation will support local programs to ensure young men and women are better positioned to secure a job in their chosen field," said Hon. Alan Brown.

The Inner North Community Foundation is an exciting new initiative in Melbourne's inner north. It is a great opportunity for families and businesses to have a go at local philanthropy and contribute directly to their community's future.

For media enquiries contact Trudy Hairs on 9481 9130 or 0404 661 293.