



## A School-Community Partnership Case Study:

### Sustainable Construction



Schools First was launched in Queensland on Friday 29th May, profiling an amazing partnership between Mt Gravatt State High and Apollo Youth Training. This dynamic duo are an example of a possible contender for the Schools First awards. In 2008, Mt Gravatt students participated in the planning and construction of a full scale tree house which was displayed and auctioned at the Housing Industry Association Home Expo.

This year, 70 students from 16 schools across Brisbane including Mt Gravatt, are taking part in all aspects of the building, construction and design of an energy efficient relocatable 3 bedroom house.

Already, six of the students who participated in the partnership last year have been signed up into school based apprenticeships in 2009.

Schools First spokesperson Jodi Cryan spoke at the launch about how partnerships, like the one already being undertaken between Mt Gravatt at Apollo Youth Training, can have significant benefits for both partners.

“Research has shown that strong school and community partnerships can have enormous benefits for students including increased learning outcomes and improved transitions into the workforce, further education or training. Effective school – community partnerships create stronger communities where people are connected, businesses have skilled workers and local economies can thrive.”

Twelve of these local awards will be allocated to Queensland schools - seven for schools in metropolitan areas, four for regional schools, and one for schools in remote areas.

Mt Gravatt State High School spokesperson, Joe Talbot, is thrilled with the results that have already been achieved through their partnership with Apollo Youth Training.

Apollo Youth Training spokesperson, Darrel Biss spoke passionately about the role that industry and community can play in helping to educate children about the world outside of the classroom.

“I believe strongly in providing children with the opportunity to learn on the job outside of the classroom. We get them involved in all elements of the building and construction including manufacturing, engineering, construction and landscaping. The kids are engaged and learning all the time and it helps open their eyes to a world of career possibilities that otherwise they would not be exposed to.”

Another community group involved in this partnership has been the Southside Cluster Industry Placement Service (SCIPS). They support this innovative school-community partnership through promotion, the screening of students, and the provision of administrative support with insurance documentation. This one-stop-shop process contributes to the development and sustainability of projects such as Project Adapt.



Schools First. Brought to life by

