

MEDIA RELEASE*For Tuesday 6 December 2016***Community benefits as students with Trades skills renovate a northern suburbs Housing Trust home – despite a massive Termite attack**

Students from several Northern Adelaide Secondary High Schools have fully rebuilt a run-down Housing Trust home at Elizabeth East as part of their classroom studies this year.

Expecting a complex renovation, they were further confronted with a massive termite invasion of interior and roof timbers! During the 2016 school year students from the Northern Adelaide State Secondary Schools Alliance (NASSSA) worked at the house to renovate and return it to the Public Housing inventory as part of the '**Doorways 2 Construction**' Program in SA Schools.

Today the students and teachers handed back the renovated home to the local community with the assistance of **Minister for Higher Education and Skills, Hon Susan Close MP.**

Doorways 2 Construction (D2C) is a collaboration between the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and DECD to deliver VET in Schools aimed at the building and construction industry. It provides 'hands-on' trades experience of the construction industry for students in Years 11 & 12. The program operates in 25 'clusters' of schools across the State covering more than 84 high schools in total.

"This is a standout example of collaboration between Industry and Government – in this case the Department of Education & Child Development and Housing SA. This program has a long record of positive outcomes and many students have gone on to successful careers in the industry," said CITB's CEO Steve Larkins.

This is the 16th year of the program and the property at 15 Salerno Court, Elizabeth East, is the 25th delivered by students through Salisbury High School. Viewers will be amazed at the transformation when comparing the 'before' photos. Renovations were carried out to full commercial specification using a range of building and construction skills. Students gain first hand experience of the industry and develop skills that make them immediately productive if they choose to seek a career in the industry.

Minister Close said students had gained valuable life skills in renovating the home. "Hands-on experience like this gives students a jump start into the real world, both in terms of developing new skills and also by being involved in their community. I am glad this program exists and we should all be impressed with the work the students have done to assist South Australians and to put their training into practice."

Students carry out work under the supervision of a licensed tradesperson and various trade contractors. The Salisbury program is directly supported by the Master Builders Association, Adelaide Training & Employment Centre (ATEC) and Training Prospects as Registered Training Organisations which provide supervision of the formal training component of the program.

Fact: D2C began in 2000 and is one of the largest, most enduring and successful programs of its kind in Australia. There are over 1,000 students in the program each year.

When & Where: Noon to 2 PM on Tuesday, at 15 Salerno Court, Elizabeth East

Awards to Teachers: As a special extra, seven teachers from D2C schools around SA will receive an Australia Day Medal and Certificate for their 10 years of service to the program. They are: Vladimir (Wally) Radowicz – Balaklava High School; Bob Combes – Cowell Area School; Tony Nichols – Hallett Cove High School; Scott Polkinghorne – Henley High School; Ty Redden – Streaky Bay Area School; Greg Griffith - East Murray Area School; Shane O'Connell – Thebarton Senior College

Interview & Information: CITB's CEO, Steve Larkins, 8172 9500, or 0408 919 600; Media Assistance, Mike O'Reilly, 0414 882,505 (All Hours)