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23 July 2012

Media Release

STOCKLAND AND BEACON PARTNER TO CREATE BRIGHT YOUNG FUTURES

Australia's largest diversified property group, Stockland, has proudly launched a national three year partnership with The Beacon Foundation to support disadvantaged young people in gaining valuable work and life skills for their future careers.

Stockland Commercial Property will sponsor Beacon's nationwide program by hosting on-site 'Stockland Uncovered' education workshops for secondary-school students at nine Stockland shopping centres in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia.

Stephen Bull, General Manager of Development, Design and Sustainability, said the major partnership aims to positively impact 1,200 Beacon students by providing them with practical work experience and skills in areas such as technology, visual merchandising, logistics and sustainability.

"Through our new partnership with Beacon, we are effectively opening our doors to students and inviting them to explore many rewarding career opportunities. By giving them insight into the day-to-day lives of our retailers, centre staff, and contractors, we hope to share valuable industry knowledge that will inspire them to reach their full potential," he said.

With youth unemployment sitting at 20 per cent – more than five times the national unemployment rate¹ - approximately 48,200 young people aged between 15-19 years seek employment every year. The school-to-work transition is also more difficult than ever for young Australians, with employers placing greater focus on credentials, and jobs becoming less predictable and accessible.

Scott Harris, Chief Executive of The Beacon Foundation, said the organisation is delighted to be working with Stockland as a major national partner, with both parties sharing the same values and purpose to create long-term benefits to local schools and communities.

"This partnership represents a significant commitment for us to reach hundreds of students in schools across Australia, and provide them with workplace experiences, personal skills and employability knowledge that helps them to secure real jobs, dignity and self-respect," he said.

The 'Stockland Uncovered' program aims to foster confidence amongst Beacon students through activities such as career and life skills workshops, mock interviews, industry tours, business representative involvement in the classroom and one-on-one mentoring.

The Stockland centres involved are Stockland Merrylands, Shellharbour, Green Hills, Townsville, Traralgon, Point Cook, Highlands, Bull Creek and Riverton.

1. ABS Labour Force Survey

The Beacon Foundation

The Beacon Foundation was founded in 1993 and is a national non-profit organisation currently working in more than 137 secondary schools across all Australian states and territories. Beacon has an established track record in helping disadvantaged young Australians to build their work and life skills, giving them greater opportunities to find career and training options that will help them to succeed in life.

Stockland: Celebrating 60 years in 2012

Stockland is one of Australia's leading property groups, owning, developing and managing a large portfolio of residential communities, retirement living villages, retail, office and industrial assets. Stockland was founded in 1952 and was recognised as the Most Sustainable Property Company in the World in the 2011/12 [Dow Jones Sustainability Index](#).

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