

MEDIA RELEASE: 23 September 2016



Sydney Foundation partners with Doveton College

Sydney foundation, Dusseldorp Forum has announced a commitment of \$1.5 million over 10 years to strengthen and replicate the Doveton College model in Victoria, recognising the valuable work being done by the Doveton community for their young people.

"We know that young people don't exist in isolation, they belong to families and are part of communities. Ensuring they thrive relies upon support structures being there for the entire community. That is why we are delighted to be supporting the Doveton model's unique, holistic approach," says Teya Dusseldorp, Executive Director of Dusseldorp Forum.

Doveton College, located in the south east of Melbourne, is a government school designed to holistically meet the needs of children from birth to Year 9 and their families. Founded in 2012 through a unique partnership between local, state and federal government and the Colman Foundation, the College has an Early Learning Centre and Prep-Year 9 school at its centre, with wrap-around health, family and children's services on site.

The College aims to create a significant change environment for children and families by engaging the children, their parents and the entire Doveton neighbourhood, reflecting the truism that, "It takes a village to raise a child".

"And we are seeing some incredible signs", says Julius Colman of the Colman Foundation. "Some 140 parents in this very disadvantaged neighbourhood are currently studying through our Adult Education program – from basic language and literacy right up to Certificate III. More than 70 parents are volunteering at the school. Many of the parents who have undertaken study are, some for the first time, engaged in sound employment. We have the possibility of bringing about very significant change."

Dusseldorp Forum is partnering with Doveton College to strengthen and build their evidence base of early childhood practice, impact and improvement over time.

June McLoughlin, Director of Family and Children's Services at Doveton College says "current research suggests that generating significant change at a community level takes time and effort if we are to make a sustainable, positive difference for children and families.

We won't see effective change for at least five to eight years so this long-term philanthropic commitment demonstrates strong support for Doveton families," she says.

"Doveton College is shining a light on the future of education with their relevant, practical model that could be applied nationally. We want to congratulate the students, teachers, parents and community of Doveton for working together to bring about change that could help many other communities across Australia," says Teya.

END

Contact: Rachel Fyfe, Communications Manager Dusseldorp Forum
rachelfyfe@dusseldorp.org.au - 0424 779 707. Photo supplied by Doveton.