

Media release
For immediate release

Friday, 26 August 2016

Rob Hulls Opens commUnity+ HUB at Deer Park

The new **comm Unity+ HUB** building at Deer Park was officially launched by Adjunct Professor Rob Hulls, the Director of Centre for Innovative Justice at RMIT and the former Attorney General of Victoria on 18 August 2016. The revamped new building provides an excellent opportunity for the organisation to open its doors to the community and to provide an integrated service delivery model – hosting a range of diverse service providers and delivering holistic services.

Adj. Prof. Hulls commended the integrated approach adopted by commUnity+ and said

"When we work in multidisciplinary ways, everyone benefits. Clients benefit by receiving a suite of services which not only address their legal problems, but the issues which have contributed to them in the first place. The community benefits because, by having these contributing factors addressed, clients are less likely to reoffend, or more likely to repair their businesses and relationships - more likely to make a positive contribution and less likely to place further demand on the service system down the track. Just as importantly, perhaps, the service providers benefit - when we work with shared purpose we learn from and teach one another. When we work with a shared goal we become part of something bigger"

James McCarthy, the Chair of the board at **commUnity+** said "the organisation's ability to provide seamless referrals and ensuring a continuum of services to our clients can be facilitated with the support of this excellent infrastructure investment."

commUnity+ runs part of it's adult education program, a children's contact service, corporate services and is reintroducing a range of community programs including exercise, computer and craft classes and groups. **commUnity+** is also looking to help a range of partners deliver their services from the site.

"commUnity+ will also be developing a family violence outreach program from the centre, delivering both legal and social support services for clients with multiple and complex needs." Said commUnity+ CEO Rachna Muddagouni

"We are extremely pleased the project was completed on time and within budget by Becon Constructions with excellent project management support from Common Equity Housing Ltd." Ms Muddagouni said.

"Working with limited resources and constraints is always a challenge; however the professional support offered by the builders, architects and our project management team helped us to overcome many of the challenges."

We invite our community members to take advantage of this great asset to the Deer Park community. Please contact the **commUnity+ HUB** for information on programs and suggestions on what you think the facility could provide to you and the community.

For further information, please contact Simon on sroberts@comm-unityplus.org.au