



Media Release

do not release until 4 April 2008

Illawarra youth RUSH in to Wollongong Central!

Wollongong Central today supports the launch of the RUSH Wollongong youth mentoring program by the In 2 Life team.

A Reducing Youth Self Harm initiative, RUSH Wollongong partners with high school aged students with inspirational mentors who are trained to assist them in achieving their educational, relational and social life goals as well encouraging them to make positive choices in all areas of their lives.

In conjunction with the launch, Wollongong Central is proud to present to In 2 Life a cheque for \$4,000 for their contribution to gift wrapping at the Centre over Christmas. Thanks to over 40 In 2 Life volunteers, over 2,300 gifts were wrapped for shoppers over Christmas, with all money raised being donated to this unique mentoring program.

CBD shopping centre, Wollongong Central has an existing relationship with the In2Life team. In August 2007, the two groups partnered to create a series of murals within Wollongong Centre. Over 100 young people of the Illawarra shared their creative talents to design and paint a large mural at the Market Lane entrance and another on the walls of one of the parent's rooms in the Centre.

Leigh Dunn, Wollongong Central Centre Manager is proud to continue the partnership with In 2 Life.

"We support this exciting program which aims to guide Wollongong's young people into making positive life decisions. In conjunction with the RUSH Wollongong Youth mentoring program, In2Life's initiatives allow young people of the Illawarra to demonstrate to the rest of the community what a positive contribution they make to our city."

Carmelo Fedele, Coordinator for In 2 Life Wollongong, is excited about what RUSH is set to achieve.



"We are thrilled with the support we've received from the team at Wollongong Central. A hub of our community, the kids get a real kick out of making such visual contributions in their city. The most recent financial contribution from Wollongong Central will help us to grow and develop the RUSH program in order to benefit as many young people in the Illawarra as possible.

Today's launch breakfast of the RUSH Mentoring Program in the Illawarra region is with business leaders, media, school representatives and other members of the community.

Ends.

For further information or for photo opportunities, please contact:

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