



9 June 2009

MEDIA ALERT

New Engineering Aid Australia launch in Sydney

Today in Sydney Engineering Aid Australia (EAA) will be officially launched.

This new agency will be responsible for the Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School and the provision of engineers to assist disadvantaged communities.

PB Managing Director Dr Jim Mantle thanked Engineering Aid Australia for their efforts to encourage Indigenous Australians to consider engineering as a career.

“When the Summer School started in 1998 there were only a handful of Indigenous engineers – the aim was to address this under-representation,” said Dr Mantle.

By 2007 twenty-three of the Summer School’s students had graduated in engineering.

Of the twenty students who attended the 2007 Summer School, nine students (including two women) have enrolled at university courses across Australia.

The week-long, live-in Summer School program offers disadvantaged Indigenous students a window into the world of engineering – and to university.

For Indigenous students, especially for those in remote areas, finishing Year 12 and getting to uni can be a challenge.

EAA Director Jeff Dobell said EAA maintains contact with the Summer School students – offering to help them complete Year 12 and aim for secondary studies.

“To make all this happen, EAA has to have a hands-on approach with host universities, sponsors and donors.

“Incorporating EAA will help the team to better manage the Summer Schools program and Engineering Assignment programs as they continue to grow,” said Mr Dobell.

Engineers Aid Australia will be officially launched at Parsons Brinckerhoff’s offices. Parsons Brinckerhoff has been a proud sponsor of the Summer School since its inception and Dr Mantle has been appointed the Chairman of EAA.

WHEN: 11.00AM Tuesday 9 June 2009

WHERE: Level 26, Ernest & Young Building
680 George Street, Sydney NSW

CONTACT: Elaine Hill on 0458-434-077 or email e1hill@pb.com.au

Photos of the 2009 Summer School:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/events/indigenous-summer-school/>

About Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB)

PB is one of the world's leading planning, environment and infrastructure consultancies, with over 13,000 staff based in offices across six continents. In Australia and New Zealand, PB's multidisciplinary team of 2,500 professionals offers a comprehensive range of multidisciplinary services and total project delivery on projects of any scale. See www.pb.com.au and www.pbworld.com