



## THE VICTORIAN PREMIER JOINS AUSTRALIA'S LEADING ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

**Melbourne, March 2012:** The Premier of Victoria, Ted Baillieu and the team at Channel 7's Better Homes & Gardens are just two of the high profile names to create designer one-off cubby houses as part of the 2012 Kids Under Cover Cubby House Challenge. The Cubby House Challenge will be held at the 2012 Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show (MIFGS), March 28 – April 1, 2012.

The cubbies will be auctioned on the final day of the MIFGS, Sunday, 01 April at 3pm. Kids Under Cover is the proud charity partner of the MIFGS for 2012 and the aim of the Cubby House Challenge is to raise the profile of the charity, and much needed funds for their work in fighting youth homelessness and providing scholarships and mentoring for at risk young people. This year, Kids Under Cover is aiming to raise \$115,000 from the Cubby House Challenge.

With the talented high profile designers and builders on board, there is no doubt bidding will be fierce. Auction bids can be made online at [www.cubbyhousechallenge.com.au](http://www.cubbyhousechallenge.com.au). Four cubbies will be auctioned to the highest bidder, and one cubby will be raffled at the event. Raffle tickets cost \$5 and can be purchased online too.

### 2012 KIDS UNDER COVER CUBBY HOUSE CHALLENGE TEAMS:

- **Australand with Premier Ted Baillieu:** Drawing on his university degree in Architecture, the Premier has based his design on the idea of a 'bird's nest.' The main structure is raised on a central pole and it will utilise recycled and reusable materials.
- **Better Homes and Gardens:** Designed and built as part of the show by Rob Palmer, the BH&G cubby is going to make the most out of recycled materials and be simple enough that people could reproduce their own version if they would like. However, the original, created by Rob and the team will be the raffle cubby for 2012.
- **Six Degrees Architects and Ducon Pty Ltd:** 'Cubby Life': To provide a safe sanctuary for kids to retreat where they can dream and reconnect to nature. The design encourages play, growth, interaction, and fun. There are no video games or internet – it is a place where kids can just be kids, alone just with their imagination to create their adult memories. Incorporating recycled materials, this cubby will have secret compartments and day beds, as well as a growing wall with edible herbs and self watering planter boxes that will use rainwater collection.
- **Burbank:** The Burbank design resembles a giant set of building blocks that can be set up in many configurations. The goal is to encourage young children to be creative and build their own environment.
- **Smith Madden with Harris HMC:** With the goal of creating a structure that will sit comfortably in any setting and be flexible enough to remain relevant and useful to a family as it grows, Smith Madden has designed a refined pavilion from warm natural materials that includes a rooftop garden and simple furnishings.

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The Cubby House Village at the MIFGS even has its own Mini-Mayor, Miss Emily Frydas. 2012 is the final year in her term, Emily will hand the keys to the Village to her successor at the official opening of the Cubby House Challenge.

"We are delighted to be the official charity of the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show this year. Having the Premier on board, as well as the incredible and ongoing support of the Master Builders Association, and our other high profile participants means that 2012 will be the biggest year for the Cubby House Challenge, so we're able to attract even more attention to the ongoing issue of youth homelessness," explained Jo Swift, Kids Under Cover CEO.

Brian Welch, Executive Director, Master Builders Association of Victoria said that Master Builders has been a long term contributor and patron of Kids Under Cover, and the Cubby House Challenge is their way of working with the building industry to give back to the community.

"The Challenge draws upon the skills of our industry to raise funds in a fun and competitive way and has been both rewarding and satisfying for the builders who have been involved," Brian Welch said.

The event is also supported generously by Gold Partners; Building Commission, Hocking Stuart and Incolink and Supporting Partners; BPA Print Group, Cape Scaffolding, IMG, Manheim, Sound Light and Motion, Rinnai and Tasman Meats.

### For more information about Kids Under Cover's Cubby House Challenge:

Visit [www.kuc.org.au](http://www.kuc.org.au) or call 1800 801 633.

### For more information about the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show:

Visit [www.melbflowershow.com.au](http://www.melbflowershow.com.au)

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### ABOUT KIDS UNDER COVER:

Kids Under Cover builds homes and provides scholarships and mentors to homeless and at risk young people.

### Vision

Our vision is for all young people to have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

### Values

Kids Under Cover is built with:

- **Commitment:** We are passionate about making a real difference.
- **Innovation:** We seek and embrace change.
- **Integrity:** We act with honesty, fairness and consistency.
- **Collaboration:** We create sustainable relationships.

Kids Under Cover currently supports more than 400 young people across Victoria, Queensland and the ACT. More than half of all young people currently relying on Kids Under Cover have reported that they would be homeless had it not been for Kids Under Cover.

Research has shown that on any given night, there are 105,000 homeless people in Australia. Nearly half of these are under the age of 25.<sup>1</sup> With such high numbers of young people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, the need for ongoing funding is critical.

Established in 1989 by Founding Patron Ken Morgan OAM, Kids Under Cover is a not-for-profit organisation operating in Victoria, Queensland and the ACT that works to fight youth homelessness. Kids Under Cover responds to the needs of young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless due to extreme conflict or overcrowding within the family home. Other issues which may intensify the need for Kids Under Cover's services include mental health issues, physical disabilities, drug and alcohol abuse, violence, poverty and the housing rental crisis.

Kids Under Cover is at the forefront of innovation in the fight against youth homelessness. Their integrated support services provides accommodation, scholarships and mentoring to keep the young person connected to a home environment, to education and to the community – the foundations for healthy development into adulthood and lifelong opportunities.

### Kids Under Cover's Studio Program

Kids Under Cover provides one and two bedroom, fully demountable studios, constructed on the grounds of the family/carer's home. This unique style of accommodation allows families to stay connected, giving them extra room to live and providing the young person with a safe, secure and stable environment.

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<sup>1</sup> Homelessness Australia, Homelessness in Australia, 2009 using Census 2006 data

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When the studio is no longer needed by the family, it is dismantled and moved to another family in need. Studios last approximately 20 years and can be relocated up to four times.

### **Kids Under Cover's Scholarships Program**

Young people and their siblings who currently, or have previously lived in Kids Under Cover's accommodation, can apply for a **Kids Under Cover Scholarship**.

The scholarships are designed to promote ongoing participation in education at VCE, VCAL, TAFE or tertiary levels.

### **Kids Under Cover's Mentoring Program**

Recently launched, the **Kids Under Cover Mentoring Program** provides young people with regular one-on-one contact with a trained adult volunteer mentor, who offers guidance and encouragement.

Many young people lack a positive role model and the consequences can be social isolation, low self-esteem, depression and even crime. Mentoring is proven to increase a young person's confidence and self-esteem and as a result they are in a better position to make life-changing decisions.

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