

Brotherhood of St Laurence
2 March 2000

Youth Employment Initiative Welcome

The Brotherhood of St Laurence today welcomed moves by the State Government to provide 2000 young people with public sector traineeships and apprenticeships.

The Youth Employment Scheme was released today by the Premier, Mr Steve Bracks, and the Minister for Post Compulsory Education and Training, Ms Lynne Kosky, at the Brotherhood of St Laurence's Employment Action Centre in Fitzroy.

With Victoria's youth unemployment rate at the unacceptably high level of 27 per cent, all efforts by the Government to get young people into jobs were to be applauded, according to Mr Mike Amor, senior manager employment services for the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

Mr Amor said the downsizing of large organisations – particularly government enterprises – over the past decade had contributed to the high youth unemployment levels in Victoria.

"Historically the public sector has traditionally offered young people entry level positions which provided them with meaningful career paths," he said.

"This initiative puts government back into the role of providing opportunities to young people which we fully support.

"We particularly appreciate efforts made within the scheme to assist long-term unemployed young people who remain some of our most marginalised and vulnerable citizens.

"We hope the private sector will follow the Government's lead."