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MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01AM, 29 JUNE 2017

YASS VALLEY COMMUNITY CELEBRATES AT GRAND OPENING OF NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICE

29 June 2017: Today YWCA Canberra celebrates the official opening of its fourth Early Childhood service, the Fairley Early Childhood Service, at the Fairley Estate in Murrumbateman, NSW.

The state-of-the-art, purpose built, open plan facility was built in partnership with ArnoldCo and Hewlett Property Group, and will provide education and care for 115 children ranging from six weeks of age, through to primary school age.

YWCA Canberra's Executive Director, Frances Crimmins says she is delighted to expand the organisation's award winning children's services into the Murrumbateman and surrounding region, and is proud to work with the local community to meet the demand for such a service.

"The Fairley Early Childhood Service is YWCA Canberra's first high quality, affordable and sustainable education and care service for children in New South Wales.

"The service will offer a flexible format, including unique learning spaces and a focus on gender-neutral education. Our service offering is based on leading global practices, and will set a new standard for early childhood education and care in the region.

"They say it takes a village to raise a child, and, we're putting this into action by providing a high quality service that will result in lasting benefits for the whole community," she said.

Rohan Arnold, Director of ArnoldCo said he is proud to be part of a whole-of-community effort to deliver exceptional education and care services to the children and families of Murrumbateman and beyond.

"Through every step of the development process, we have worked in conjunction with a range of stakeholders to ensure that the service is of the utmost quality, in order to maximise the positive impact it has for local families and the broader community," he said.

Ben Hewlett, Director of Hewlett Property Group said the unique design aspects of the service differentiate it from many other early childhood services.

“We have created a beautiful, sustainable and flexible facility that is intended to support children’s social, emotional, creative, intellectual and physical development.

“It is a very exciting time for the Murrumbateman community indeed,” he said.

YWCA Canberra’s President Jude Burger will officially open the new centre at a ribbon cutting ceremony today at 3:30 pm.

The event will feature talks from Ms Crimmins, Mike Reid, Murrumbateman Councillor, Mr Arnold, and Mr Hewlett. Rowena Abbey, Mayor of Yass Valley Council will also be in attendance. Guests will enjoy drinks, canapes and a tour of the service.

- ENDS -

Frances Crimmins, Mike Reid, Rohan Arnold, and Ben Hewlett are available for interview.

Media contact: Eliza Hughes, 0429 210 881.

Media are welcome to attend the event. Please contact Eliza.Hughes@ywca-canberra.org.au to register.

About ArnoldCo: ArnoldCo is second generation family business, established in 1976 which has undertaken numerous commercial, industrial, and residential projects throughout Australia. ArnoldCo is supported by offices in Australia, China and the Philippines which enables us to take advantage of supply chains in lower cost markets. In most cases ArnoldCo has an equity stake in the developments it is involved in.

About Hewlett Property Group: Hewlett Property Group is a privately-owned company who specialise across the multi-unit residential and commercial space within growth corridors of Sydney and regional New South Wales. In recent years, Hewlett Property Group have been involved in the crafting of small to medium density development sites ranging in size from twenty-five to three hundred units.

About YWCA Canberra: YWCA Canberra is a feminist, secular, not-for-profit community organisation that has been providing community services and representing women’s issues in the Canberra community since its establishment in 1929. YWCA Canberra employs more than 300 staff across the ACT, and delivers 30 quality programs in children’s services, community development, housing, youth services, women’s leadership, advocacy, and training. Represented in 122 countries, the YWCA has a global reach of 25 million women and girls. As part of this international movement, YWCA Canberra works for a world where reconciliation, justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and care for the environment are promoted and sustained through women’s leadership. For more information visit: www.ywca-canberra.org.au

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