



BedfordTM

Media Release

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Bedford to breathe new life into Scholars Cafe

The state's most diverse disability service provider – Bedford – is set to extend its reputation as leader in catering services thanks to a new partnership with another iconic Adelaide charity.

Bedford has teamed up with the Can:Do Group at Townsend House in Hove to assume operation of Scholars Cafe at Can:Do's Townsend Park Lifestyle Estate, and use its experience in hospitality to breathe new life into the business.

Following an official opening ceremony to be held on Monday, November 14, Bedford will begin providing daily food and beverage services to 170 residents and staff at the retirement community and within the Can:Do4Kids - Townsend House headquarters.

As the second community-based cafe to be opened by Bedford in less than 18 months, the partnership with the Can:Do Group will create more employment opportunities for people with disability and bring Bedford's formula for success in hospitality to the operation.

In mid-2010 Bedford assumed operation of Entwich Cafe at Enterprise House on Greenhill Rd, formerly run by Business SA, where it doubled turnover in the first 10 months and now provides lunches and morning tea to more than 200 Business SA staff and other neighbouring businesses.

"The Entwich success story was so positive that we have spent the last few months scoping out sites to create a similar facility," Bedford Chief Executive Sally Powell said.

"When the opportunity to partner with the Can:Do Group at Townsend House was presented it fitted our criteria perfectly – they wanted to improve the cafe but needed to outsource the work.

"By working with Bedford, the Can:Do Group is also providing more community-based employment and training opportunities to people with disability.

"The cafe already has an established customer base thanks to those people living or working at Townsend House, but we plan to improve it significantly with a new menu, the highest quality food and access to Bedford's outstanding full-service catering."

From Monday to Friday a Bedford team will run Scholars Cafe and prepare and serve a complete hot and cold menu including gourmet baguettes and sandwiches, salad packs, fruit salad packs, Bedford's popular homemade pies, pasties and sausage rolls, as well as a weekly 'Roast of the day', lasagne, stir fry and more.

The facility will also allow Bedford employees the opportunity to receive barista training with a state of the art coffee machine installed on site.

The Bedford hospitality team located at Panorama and Clapham currently offers a comprehensive range of catering services across metropolitan South Australia including corporate functions, special events and conference services with a philosophy of tailoring any package to the client's needs.



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The Can:Do Group is an umbrella brand that includes South Australia's two oldest registered charitable service providers – Can:Do 4Kids - Townsend House and Deaf Can:Do - the Royal South Australian Deaf Society.

Can:Do 4Kids - Townsend House provides a helping hand for eyes and ears, delivering outcomes for South Australian's from birth to 25 years who are deaf, blind, or who have a sensory impairment.

Deaf Can:Do – The Royal South Australian Deaf Society, has been providing services and support to the South Australian Deaf and hard of hearing Community for 120 years.

The organisation also operates a full audiology service through Can:Do Hearing, as well as within the Lifestyle Estate – Townsend Park, Meander Cottages and at Townsend in Strathalbyn.

Bedford background: Visit www.bedfordgroup.com.au/news_and_info

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