

## **Media Release**

**14 April 2008**

### **MINING INDUSTRY KICKS IN TO SUPPORT HOMELESS**

Growing concerns about the plight of the homeless across Australia have been backed by the NSW mining industry, which today announced its official support for the Touch Life event being staged in the Hunter Valley over the forthcoming Anzac Day long weekend.

The event, created by ex Wallaby captain Nick Farr-Jones, will raise money and awareness for homelessness and all funds raised will go to Wesley Mission in New South Wales and the Hutt St Centre in Adelaide to support their homeless services.

The Touch Life event begins with a corporate touch football tournament on the Saturday; a concert featuring Ricki-Lee, Leo Sayer and the Sydney Street Choir on the Saturday night; and finishes with a Grand Final family day on the Sunday.

The coal industry, through the NSW Minerals Council, will sponsor the Touch Life Grand Final family day at Hunter Valley Gardens on Sunday April 27 and will enter two teams in the tournament.

Hunter Valley mining companies including Xstrata Coal, Centennial Coal and Peabody Energy will field several teams throughout the event.

"The people of the Hunter are legendary for their support for each other in times of crisis. What many don't know is that many Australians live in crisis every day," said Chief Executive Officer of the NSW Minerals Council Dr Nikki Williams. "The 2001 Census found that 100,000 Australians are homeless and 500 people per day are turned away from homeless services."

Dr Williams said that the mining industry was delighted to join forces with other key Hunter industries to support the homeless in Australia.

"The mining industry is the backbone of the Hunter region and I am delighted that we are supporting such an important cause," she said.

"The Touch Life event is an innovative way to raise awareness and funds for those in need. I encourage our local miners and their families to come along to the event, enjoy a great family weekend and get together for this worthy cause."

The Touch Life Grand Final family day will also offer wine tastings from participating wineries in the Hunter Valley region, fine food and children's entertainment.

Nick-Farr Jones and other celebrities will play in a morning celebrity football match as a curtain raiser to the grand final.

For more information on Touch Life visit [www.touchlife.com.au](http://www.touchlife.com.au)

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