



August 2006

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **GJK Facility Services, the State Government of Victoria and Brotherhood of St. Laurence**

### ***International Finalists at the H. Bruce Russell Global Innovators Awards, Harvard University, Boston – August 2006***

- Prestigious, Global Awards for Innovation
- Strategic Partnership & Collaboration
- An Australian First – What a Result!

**Boston, Massachusetts, August 2006** What do GJK Facility Services, the State Government and the Brotherhood of St. Laurence have in common with some of the world's most renowned companies? They have all been finalists of the '*H. Bruce Russell Global Innovator's Award*'. Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, the award recognises leading-edge practices and innovations in corporate and commercial real estate, workplace management and public sector asset & facilities management. The award also highlights collaboration through strategic partnerships, community reinvestment and other resources that have set new standards, created new solutions and established new benchmarks.

The collaborative team approach of GJK Facility Services, the Victorian State Government (Office of Housing) and the Brotherhood of St. Laurence has resulted in the group becoming finalists at the prestigious Awards at Harvard University in Boston. GJK Facility Services, the Victorian State Government and the Brotherhood of St. Laurence worked to achieve success in what was, at first glance, a modest cleaning contract at the Collingwood and Atherton Gardens Public Housing Estates in Victoria, Australia. The result has been a commercial and collaborative service offering that has changed the face of long term unemployment nationally - and has significantly impacted local communities.

George Stamas, Director and owner of GJK Facility Services states "The contract involved significant risk, innovation and, above all, a requirement by the Victorian State Government for GJK to engage some of the most financially & socially disadvantaged people in Victoria to their facilities services team running the contract. GJK Facility Services, the Victorian State Government & the Brotherhood of St. Laurence worked together to achieve a commercially viable & socially responsible outcome for all stakeholders".

This is the first time that an Australian collaborative partnership between a commercial operation, a State Government and social welfare group has been publicly acknowledged for their efforts on the global stage. The Global Innovator's Awards are designed to identify innovative practices that can be applied immediately by other corporations, government entities and other industry professionals alike. The judging panel comprised of globally recognised industry & corporate real estate figures and members of the worldwide CoreNet Global association. Presenting the group's submission was George Stamas and Mario Vella-West of GJK Facility Services, Terry Bevans of the Victorian State Governments Office of Housing and Nick Marandos of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence.

Mario Vella-West, CEO of GJK Facility Services, stated "The key difference in this contract was the Victorian State Government's mandatory public tenant employment clause which originated from an Office of Housing, Victorian State Government initiative, Neighbourhood Renewal – with the specific objective of providing disadvantaged public housing tenants renewed ownership of their Public Tenant Environments. The ultimate aim of Neighbourhood Renewal was to make a real difference to the lives of disadvantaged Victorians by empowering them in their own living environments and improving their quality of life.

Previous winners of the award have included Toyota, BP, Bank of America, Sun Microsystems, Royal Bank of Scotland. GJK anxiously awaits the outcome of the awards with the winners due to be announced in Florida this November. For additional information on 'International Finalists at the H. Bruce Russell Awards, please visit our website [www.gjkfacilityservices.com.au](http://www.gjkfacilityservices.com.au)

#### **ABOUT GJK FACILITY SERVICES**

GJK is one of the largest privately owned providers of facility support services with over 500 employees in Victoria and in excess of 3,000 through their National Alliance. GJK Facility Services is proud of the excellent and long standing working relationships it has developed over the years with its major customers. Our business has grown on the basis of our track record and we have developed a reputation for providing a high level of value for service – putting our customers at the centre of our operation.



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