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March, 2009

BADGE STARTS WORK ON NEW HOME FOR GUIDE DOGS SA.NT

Construction has commenced on new facilities for Guide Dogs SA.NT at its Morphett Street headquarters in the city.

To be built by leading construction firm Badge, the project will be spearheaded by the development of South Australia's first interactive vision and hearing health education facility, the Guide Dogs Discovery Centre.

The project, involving a complete internal demolition of the existing building, will include training and grooming facilities for young puppies being educated to become guide dogs, as well as a dedicated puppy viewing room for visitors.

Renovations will also include new office and meeting rooms for staff, plus warehouse and storage facilities. The project will also incorporate separate office space and car parking for up to three co-tenants of the building. This will provide Guide Dogs SA.NT with much-needed revenue and assist in the sustainability of the organisation.

Jim Whiting, Managing Director at Badge said the company expects to complete the project by December this year.

"Having just commenced work on-site, we're aiming to get the job done by the end of November at which point we'll have a shiny new facility for Guide Dogs SA.NT to move back into and enjoy for many years to come," he said.

"Badge is obviously delighted to partner Guide Dogs SA.NT and help turn its plans for an exciting new home into reality."

Staff at Guide Dogs SA.NT are based at temporary offices at Devon Park for the duration of the building project.

President Rick Sutton said the establishment of the Guide Dogs Discovery Centre will help stem the rising incidence of preventable vision and hearing loss.

"Tailored for junior primary and primary school pupils, as well as corporate and community groups, the Guide Dogs Discovery Centre will educate and satisfy curiosity about vision and hearing impairment.

"In particular, the Centre will feature innovative technology to allow visitors to experience how it feels to have a vision or hearing loss. It will also showcase world-

class dog training methods and provide public viewing of the outdoor puppy training and play areas.”

Established in 1957, Guide Dogs SA.NT is recognised for providing high quality integrated services to individuals who require sensory support throughout South Australia, the Northern Territory and Broken Hill.

Badge was selected to construct the association’s new building on the strength of its outstanding credentials in the not-for-profit sector, including past projects for the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul and the Hutt Street Centre.

Established in 1983, Badge is one of Australia’s largest privately-owned commercial construction firms employing 140 people and turning over almost \$200 million annually across its Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth offices.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Please contact Badge
Danica Sieben, Brand & Communications Manager on (08) 8293 5099,
0448 961 069 or dsieben@badge.net.au

ISSUED BY HUGHES PUBLIC RELATIONS: Please contact
Kieran Hall on (08) 8412 4100 or kieran@hughespr.com.au