



Future Directions

young people in property

Investing in the future — Property Council launches new mentoring program

The Victorian Corporate Real Estate (CRE) and Future Directions committee has joined forces to develop the first Property Council mentoring program.

The Program was developed in 2006 and was launched last month. The driving force of the program was Corporate Real Estate Committee member, and current Victorian Division Councillor, Vito Chiodo from Telstra.

“I think it is great the Property Council has provided its support to create a forum to allow us to impart our knowledge and experiences to dedicated and passionate young promising individuals for the betterment of those concerned and the industry in general,” Mr Chiodo said.

The terms of reference for the program have been developed by CRE committee member Chris Heywood, of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne. Chris’ academic background and experience with other mentor programs will assist both mentor and mentee to reap the benefits from their investment.

“Young professionals want to learn from experiences that simply can’t be found in formal education. This program is an investment in the skills and careers of younger property professionals at a time when firms are crying out for quality, skilled staff,” Mr Heywood said.

The mentors have been selected from the Victorian Corporate Real Estate committee, with depth and breadth of experience from the private, government and not for profit sectors. The mentees were selected from expressions of interest undertaken last year and “profiled” with their mentors.

Future Directions Mentoring coordinator, Kevin Miles of Gray Puksand, says that program plays an important part in furthering the industry.

“The Future Directions program was one of the first young professional networking programs. The Future Directions and CRE committees recognised a need to support young professionals in their career development,” Mr Miles said.

“It’s exciting to see the mentoring program launched. We also would like to wish those participating in the mentoring program all the best for their drive to guide their future professional careers.”

In addition to career development, the mentors also hope to promote the corporate real estate sector. CRE committee chairman, Duncan Waddell, says leading CRE practice is yet to be applied in many businesses.

“Adding value to a company’s bottom line through managing your corporate real estate more efficiently doesn’t happen by accident,” Mr Waddell said.

“The committee through its various projects, including the mentoring program, is committed to promoting best practice and innovation in corporate real estate.”

The FD and CRE committees hope to expand the program in late 2007 or early 2008.

If you would like to register your interest in becoming a mentor or mentee contact Libby Davis at ldavis@vic.propertyoz.com.au.

“Developing young property professionals by providing information, support & networking opportunities”