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Media Statement

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM PLEDGE TO CHOOSE LOCAL**

An award-winning construction company's pledge to keep jobs and profits in the local community has seen a \$2 million capital works program at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School completed without a hitch.

Excited staff and students are now counting down the days before their new multipurpose hall and second kindergarten classroom are officially opened in August. As students take leave for their mid-year break, the final touches are being made with lawn laid down in time for Term 3.

Pindan's South West Construction Manager and Busselton resident, Gavin Bell, said the company's philosophy to utilise local contractors and suppliers as its first choice was a win-win for business and the community.

"Over three-quarters of the contractors on this project have links to the school community, including me," Mr Bell said.

"We've sourced as many workers as possible from parents at the school, and harnessed the services of local suppliers and trades people from the surrounding community.

"One of the brickies gets to see his child at school every lunch time - he's just one of many dads working on the site."

All three of Mr Bell's kids have attended St Joseph's – two still there and the third now at nearby Mackillop Catholic College.

St Joseph's principal Allen McMahon said his school had thoroughly enjoyed working with Pindan because they clearly shared the same strong sense of community.

"This project is a real milestone in our school's development – we've now got a state-of-the-art facility with raised stage, two changerooms, rebound rubber sports flooring, motorised backboards and complete undercover linking it to the main school.

"Being able to involve so many people connected with the school in the process creates a tremendous sense of pride and ownership."

Mr Bell said Pindan had happily immersed itself in the South West community since establishing operations in Busselton almost 15 years ago.

"We don't just support local business and community, we're a part of it," he said.

Pindan was selected to complete the \$2 million construction project as part of the Federal Government's \$16.2 billion *Building the Education Revolution* (BER) investment.

With the Busselton project drawing to a close, another Pindan site manager in the South West - Chris Keel - has begun sourcing contractors among local businesses and parents of students at Our Lady of the Cape Primary School in Dunsborough.

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**About Pindan Constructions**

Pindan was formed more than 30 years ago. Over that time, the company has evolved from a simple construction company to an integrated property group that incorporates construction, property and related industries. The organisation employs around 200 staff in Perth, Mandurah and Busselton.

Pindan credits its philosophy to invest in 'partnerships' as its key strength. The company's purpose is to work in partnership with its clients to create positive and timely outcomes for all parties. These partnerships refer to the 'whole scope of our business relationships' including clients, consultants, trades, suppliers and staff. The philosophy is not confined to an individual project, but extends across many years of ongoing business.