



2nd March 2008

QUEST ALICE SPRINGS: CHIEF MINISTER HERALDS TERRITORY BUSINESS SUCCESS

Chief Minister the Hon. Paul Henderson MLA today opened the latest addition to the Neck business tradition, Quest Alice Springs – the corporate accommodation franchise adding further clout to the Alice Springs' business community.

Congratulating Greg and Val Neck and Jenny and Paul Montefiore, Chief Minister Henderson acknowledged the immense contribution of the family to the Alice Springs community and anticipated the success of the partnership with Quest Serviced Apartments.

Chief Minister Henderson said, "The development of Quest Alice Springs has been a significant investment in Central Australia, and reflects the growing strength of the region emerging from the business and tourism nexus. This partnership - between the proven success of the award-winning Quest franchise, and our very own Greg and Val Neck, and Paul and Jenny Montefiore - is a tremendous contribution to the Alice Springs business community."

The Neck business tradition now spans four generations and is still growing strong, with the purpose-built property adding to the family's interests in the region.

Greg Neck said, "The secret of our success over the years is that we have all been able to work together and specialise in different areas of the business. We are all very excited about our new venture in Quest Alice Springs, and are looking forward to providing a great experience for our guests."

"We decided to become involved with Quest because of their professionalism and business track record; they are leaders in the serviced apartment industry. The awards they have received from the business sector in 2007, including NAB SmartCompany Franchise of the Year, and PwC Franchise of the Year – Service at the Excellence in Franchising Awards, prove this."

Quest Serviced Apartments offer a comprehensive range of accommodation solutions across more than 110 properties throughout Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. For more information on Quest Serviced Apartments contact 1800 334 033 from Australia, 0800 944 400 from New Zealand or email grc@questapartments.com.au



Twelve locals and Northern Territorian Jason Yule have been employed to run the property, which caters specifically to the corporate traveller with 68 apartments in a mix of studio, one, two- and three- bedroom configurations that include separate dining and lounge rooms, as well as fully-equipped kitchen and laundry facilities (excl. studios). Quest Alice Springs is centrally located on South Terrace and can accommodate up to 30 conference delegates at a time.

As Central Australia's oldest retail business, the Neck's legacy began with their grandfather's ice-making business in 1939, which later expanded into a delicatessen that defied the desert heat without the benefit of electric refrigeration.

Greg's father Murray Neck transformed the business into a vast retail concern which Greg joined in 1972, along with his sister Jenny, with the June 2007 acquisition into the Harvey Norman franchise further consolidating the family's success.

This year, Quest Serviced Apartments is celebrating 20 years as Australasia's leading serviced apartments, with the network expanding to 125 properties across Australia, New Zealand and Fiji by the end of 2008.

Quest Alice Springs is the second property for the Group in the Northern Territory portfolio while its first, Quest Darwin, won the NT Tourism Brologa Award for Best Deluxe Accommodation in 2007.