TAFE students collect 50,000 shoes for Haiti earthquake victims

TAFE students from across NSW have joined forces to collect over 50,000 pairs of new and used shoes for earthquake victims in Haiti.

The students have partnered with the charity, Soles4Souls to collect shoes over the past eight months from students, staff and the local community.

The Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth congratulated the TAFE students on their remarkable effort and called on the broader community to get onboard.

“So far 36,000 pairs of shoes have been sent and we are expecting another shipment of 16,000 more shoes to be dispatched to Haiti in the next fortnight.

“I’m especially proud that the TAFE NSW Student Association is leading the charge to collect for this important initiative.

“These student leaders are ambassadors for their TAFE institutes and it’s fantastic to see such dedication and generosity in the student community.

“This campaign is not just taking place at TAFE; school students from across NSW have also taken up this important cause.

“I hope to see all members of the community getting involved in this very worthy cause,” Ms Firth said.

Volker Euler from the North Sydney TAFE College Student Association said a partnership with the City of Sydney Council has now been established to extend the reach of the initiative and enable office workers in the CBD to donate shoes on their way to and from work.

“This is such an important cause and we wanted to take it beyond TAFE students and extend it to the wider community,” he said.

“Collection points are available throughout NSW and thanks to our new partnership with the City of Sydney we have just established an additional 12 drop off points in the Sydney CBD.

“Donations will go towards helping the 300 million children and adults worldwide who suffer from daily foot injuries and social disadvantage because they have never owned a pair of shoes.

“We hope by the end of this initiative to have collected 100,000 pairs of shoes. This is a vital humanitarian effort, and while it’s just an old pair of shoes to us it’s equivalent to three months worth of savings to someone in need,” he said.

Information about collection points is available online at: http://www.studentassociations.info/worldlysoles/