

Media Release

Australian Government funding means more milk to people in need

18 April 2012, Hobart – The nutritious benefits of milk will reach more Australians in need thanks to a decision by the Australian Government to fund an extension of the highly successful collaboration between the dairy industry and Foodbank Australia.

At a function to be held at the Foodbank warehouse in Hobart today, Julie Collins, Minister for Community Services and the Status of Women, today announced a \$300,000 injection into the dairy program which has already seen over 450,000 litres of fresh milk go to charities around Australia and aims to ultimately provide 2 million litres of milk a year.

The additional funds from the Government will enable Foodbank to source the shelf-stable UHT milk it needs to compliment the fresh supply. This will allow milk to be included in home food hampers and distributed to charities with no or limited refrigeration, particularly in remote and regional areas.

John Webster, CEO of Foodbank Australia said of the additional funds: "Our aim is for welfare agencies to be able to rely on us for all the key staples they need to provide balanced and nutritious meals to the people they assist. Milk is consistently at the top of their shopping list."

"The Australian Government is a pivotal partner in our collaborative supply program which pro-actively fills the gaps of essential items not obtained via traditional rescue channels. We welcome this increased commitment to our dairy program and see it as a show of faith in the effectiveness of our partnership with food industry to address the problem of hunger," John said.

Speaking on behalf of the welfare agencies about the value of the milk to people receiving food assistance, Pieter Spakman from the Kingborough Life Church at Kingston in Hobart, said. "Milk as a whole is one of the first items to be taken by the needy and is very much appreciated".

For more details about Foodbank Australia, visit www.foodbank.com.au.

About Foodbank

Foodbank is the largest hunger relief organisation in Australia and the pantry of the community sector. In partnership with the food industry, the corporate sector, governments and volunteers, Foodbank assists the charities and community groups of Australia to tackle the hidden problem of hunger, one empty stomach at a time.

Foodbank is a non-denominational, non-profit, national organisation with distribution centres in all states, the Northern Territory and eight regional centres. Foodbank is endorsed by the Australian Food and Grocery Council as the food industry's charity partner.

In 2010/11 21 million kilograms of food was donated to create 28 million meals. This enabled Foodbank to assist 2,500 welfare agencies to provide 75,000 meals every day.

Foodbank acts as a conduit between the food and grocery industry's donations and the welfare sector's needs. Food companies deliver their donations to Foodbank warehouses and welfare agencies collect the donated food and distribute it to people in need.

For more information:

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