

MEDIA RELEASE



Australian Food and Grocery Council

EMBARGOED until 10pm, 2 November 2011

Foodbank awards key partners for outstanding efforts to combat hunger in Australia

The nation's largest food relief organisation, Foodbank Australia, tonight recognised the exceptional contribution of four companies in tackling the pressing problem of hunger in Australia.

The Australian Dairy Industry, SPC Ardmona, Patties Foods and Lotterywest received the 2011 Foodbank Awards at the Australian Food and Grocery Council's (AFGC) Annual Industry Leaders' Gala Dinner held at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra.

Enzo Allara, Chairman of Foodbank Australia said, "Every year we look to acknowledge and celebrate the companies that embody the attributes we need if, together, we're going to achieve the audacious goal of eliminating hunger in Australia.

"It's always a difficult decision to single out winners but this year it was even tougher when all of our industry partners have risen to the challenge of escalating demand from welfare agencies in the face of economic woes and a series of natural disasters. However, I'm pleased to say that the recipients of the 2011 Awards are truly worthy of accolades for their respective contributions."

AFGC Chief Executive Kate Carnell said the coveted awards were vital in celebrating the outstanding achievements of the food and grocery manufacturers reducing food waste and helping those in desperate need. "Almost 25 per cent of household food is wasted every year. As a result, the food manufacturing sector is committed to minimising food waste and helping the hungry through donating large volumes of food and groceries to Foodbank Australia," Ms Carnell said.

Australia's largest manufacturing industry – food and grocery – is a major supporter of Foodbank Australia by donating and producing food which is passed on to the nation's leading charities.

This year Foodbank's Leadership Award was presented to the **Australian Dairy Industry** for a new initiative which will provide one million litres of milk annually to Foodbank. This is the first time an entire industry has come together to support Foodbank and the ongoing donation will be greatly valued as milk is highly sought after by welfare agencies across the country.

The Collaboration Award was presented to **SPC Ardmona** for being a pivotal partner in the proactive provision of staple food so essential to the welfare agencies trying to provide balanced meals on a daily basis.

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SPC Ardmona has devised a number of creative supply solutions to provide Foodbank with a range of canned products including baked beans, spaghetti, soup, fruit and vegetables. In addition to this, SPC Ardmona has shown outstanding commitment to the food rescue program, always looking for creative ways to utilise redundant ingredients or packaging.

Foodbank's Innovation Award went to **Patties Foods** for providing a total solution to generating food by arranging the manufacture of 138,000 of its iconic Four'N Twenty meat pies especially for Foodbank.

Patties Foods negotiated with all its suppliers to provide their materials and services free of charge and more than 70 staff and management volunteered their time on a Saturday to produce the pies at the Bairnsdale bakery. The staff worked in shifts while the management provided a BBQ and entertainment with prizes donated by the local Bairnsdale community.

Finally the Partnership Award was presented to **Lotterywest** for its ongoing support of Foodbank Western Australia. Lotterywest recently provided \$4,275,000 for the land and lease of Foodbank WA's new central warehouse facility. It has also provided \$700,000 towards the infrastructure of a new warehouse to serve the Kalgoorlie-Boulder region. This is the first purpose-built Foodbank facility in Australia and will bring food relief to some of the most remote communities in the country.

Past awards read as the 'Who's Who' in the food manufacturing industry including Woolworths, Smiths Snackfoods, Kraft, Rinoldi Pasta, Cadbury, Dairy Farmers, Fonterra, Goodman Fielder, Nestle, and Unilever. 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 nine 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.

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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.

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