

**Under embargo: 1:00pm, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Foodbank Australia delivers 1.2 million bowls of porridge to fight hunger this winter**

**Melbourne, 24 May 2011:** Today, Foodbank Australia, the nation's largest hunger relief organisation, announced that it will provide over 1.2 million bowls of porridge - a healthy and wholesome breakfast - to hungry Australians this winter.

Following today's launch at Uncle Tobys factory in Wahgunyah, Victoria, the rolled oats will be delivered to 2,500 charities and 396 schools across the country to provide those in need with a wholesome start to the day.

Greg Warren, General Manager of Foodbank Australia, comments: "We're happy to get this major delivery just in time for winter. Cereal, particularly oats, is a much sought after product by the welfare agencies especially during the colder months.

"In addition, electricity price rises are expected to hit families hard this winter, particularly the 13.2% of Australians that live in low income households. For those who struggle to pay their bills, food becomes a discretionary item, which leads many to turn to welfare support. It's far from just the homeless who rely on hunger relief in 2011," adds Warren.

To make the 48,000kg of rolled oats, Foodbank called on its partners Uncle Tobys, CBH Grain, Amcor, Toll, The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), ANZ, CSL and Microsoft to donate ingredients, services and funding.

Uncle Tobys Plant Manager, David Flanagan comments, "We're delighted to be a part of this major Foodbank initiative and do our bit to combat hunger in Australia. Breakfast is an important part of a nutritious diet and we want to make sure it's available to all Australians."

This enormous production is part of Foodbank's Collaborative Supply Program, which aims to meet the high demand for nourishing food items, such as breakfast cereals, bread, canned vegetables and pasta.

Warren explains, "There is currently a gap between the amount of breakfast cereal donated to Foodbank and what is needed to feed those who don't have the resources to put breakfast on the table each morning.

"The Collaborative Supply Program allows us to address this shortfall by coordinating the production, processing, packaging and transport of the oats, using donated ingredients and services from our valued partners."

The milling oats, which were provided by Australian grain growers through CBH Grain, was manufactured at Uncle Tobys' plant, wrapped in Amcor packaging and finally shipped around the country by TOLL transport. Funding support was also provided by FaHCSIA, with further support coming from ANZ & Microsoft staff.

This is the second time these organisations have come together to support Foodbank in its fight against hunger. In 2009, the Collaborative Supply Program was first used to produce 43,000kg of rolled oats and the plan is to make this an annual event.

Peter Ainsworth, Domestic Marketing Manager, CBH Grain, comments, "The Collaborative Supply Program allows everyone to do their part in the fight against hunger. It's an amazing example of how government, corporations and individuals can come together to support Australians in need. We would like to give a special thanks to the Australian grain growers who have donated produce to the Foodbank program. It's their grain that will provide hungry Australians with a heart-warming breakfast over these cold months."

The rolled oats will be distributed to welfare agencies and school during the winter months. Nationally Foodbank is relied on by 2,500 welfare agencies and 396 schools to feed over 70,000 Australians every day.

***Note to editors: images of today's launch are available on request***

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### **About Foodbank**

Foodbank is the largest hunger relief organisation in Australia. In partnership with the food industry, the corporate sector, governments, welfare agencies and volunteers, Foodbank is tackling the hidden problem of hunger in Australia, one empty stomach at a time. It is a non-denominational, national organisation, with distribution centres in six 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 2009/10 19 million kilograms of food was donated to create 25 million meals. This enabled Foodbank to assist 2,500 welfare agencies to provide 70,000 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.

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