



MEDIA RELEASE

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SURPLUS FOOD GETS A SECONDBITE

People in need across Melbourne's outer suburbs now have access to new sources of fresh produce, thanks to a financial grant by waste and recycling company SITA Australia.

SecondBite is one of Victoria's leading providers of nutrition services to the State's most vulnerable residents. The organisation collects and redistributes good food that would have otherwise gone to waste ensuring at risk Australians have access to the fresh and nutritious food they need for their health and wellbeing.

With the \$5,000 SITA Community Grant, and other generous donations, SecondBite has been able to expand its operations to source and redistribute 104,000 kg of high quality surplus fresh food, to 50 agencies across Carrum Downs, Kilsyth and Seaford in Melbourne's outer metropolitan suburbs.

Stuart Lowe, Fundraisings & Partnerships Manager said, SecondBite's commitment is to ensure that quality surplus fresh food does not go to waste, but instead to individuals and families who really need it.

"The SITA community grant has directly supported our Food Hubs in Carrum Downs, Kilsyth and Seaford. This means we have been able to increase access to fresh food for disadvantaged and vulnerable children, men and women living in and around these areas," Mr Lowe said.

SITA Victoria General Manager, Kelvin Sargent presented the grant to SecondBite at their latest Food Hub in Seaford. He said the company was delighted to be able to support such an important community initiative in this region.

"The impact of the fresh food redistribution programs carried out by SecondBite is enormous. By collecting and redistributing food to local hands-on service-based agencies, they are providing a vital service to community food programs that support people who are homeless, women and families in crisis, youth at risk and many other disadvantaged groups in our community," he said.

The positive social effect of SecondBite is not only seen in the groups and people who receive the redistributed food, but also on the environment.

"As a leader in the resource recovery sector, we were also impressed with the environmental results that SecondBite has achieved by rescuing food that would otherwise go to landfill. The organisation collected over 2.75 million kg of produce in Victoria alone over the 2014 financial year – saving food, water, energy and CO2 emissions," Mr Sargent continued.

SecondBite exists to provide access to fresh, nutritious food for people in need across Australia. They do this by rescuing and redistributing surplus fresh food, building community capacity in food skills and nutrition and advocating for an end to food insecurity.

For more information on SecondBite, visit their website at <http://secondbite.org/>

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SITA AUSTRALIA (SITA) makes it easy for our customers to put their waste to good use. We find smart and reliable solutions to collect, recover and recycle waste into valuable resources to help protect our environment. SITA employs 2,100 people and provides services to more than 56,000 commercial and industrial customers and 3.7 million residents across Australia each week.