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StreetSmart Celebrates 1000th Community Grant

Since 2003 StreetSmart has been on a plight to significantly alleviate the issue of homelessness in Australia, providing financial support to strengthen small, grassroots community organisations that focus on helping people in crisis.

So far, StreetSmart has raised over $3.4 million, supporting **over 1000 community projects**; a huge milestone for the not for profit organisation.

StreetSmart celebrates its 1000th Community Grant with Iramoo Youth Refuge, an organisation that supports young people who are at risk of homelessness by providing housing and support through their six-week crisis accommodation program in Footscray.

"To be the recipient of the 1000th StreetSmart Community Grant is so special. We have been fortunate to have received wonderful support from StreetSmart over the last ten years", said Alistair Sutherland, Manager, Iramoo Youth Refuge.

"Finding funding for a service as small as ours is never easy to come by, but StreetSmart have been there for us and the projects they are willing to support make a real difference to our work and the outcomes we can achieve for our young homeless clients."

StreetSmart's current round of 70 community grants are funded by DineSmart – a fundraising campaign held in November - December each year that raises money via restaurants and their diners all around Australia.

In 2014, through the DineSmart campaign, participating restaurants were able to help raise $254,300 by allowing diners to donate $2 per table.

CEO of StreetSmart, Adam Robinson said that despite StreetSmart being in its 12th year, there is as strong an appetite to address homelessness than ever before, both within the hospitality sector that supports DineSmart, and the broader community.

"Each year I am overwhelmed by the support of our participating restaurants and the broader public. To know that we have now given over 1,000 grants to local communities across Australia, is an extraordinary effort – something myself and the broader StreetSmart team is really proud of".

StreetSmart intends on running DineSmart again in November - December 2015. It's newest fundraising initiative CafeSmart will be run on 7th August 2015.

Australians can support StreetSmart by:
-Attending and taking part in numerous events including DineSmart, CafeSmart and RunSmart
-By donating online through the StreetSmart crowdfunding platform 'PROJECTS'
-By supporting and sharing content from StreetSmart's Facebook, Twitter and Youtube accounts

For more information, visit: <u>www.streetsmartaustralia.org</u> and <u>http://projects.streetsmartaustralia.org/</u>

Media Enquiries:
Adam Robinson – CEO – 0488 336419

About StreetSmart
In response to a lack of action and support from the Government, StreetSmart was founded in 2003 to support and strengthen smaller, grassroots community organisations helping the homeless. These smaller organisations are critical in helping many people in crisis. StreetSmart helps out by raising funds and delivering financial grants, raising community awareness of the issues of homelessness and assisting these organisations to connect across their communities. To date StreetSmart has raised and distributed $3,426,784 funding 1009 projects.
For more information, visit www.streetsmartaustralia.org