

Media Release

June 2020

STREETSMART APPEALS FOR HELP TO PROVIDE 5,000 WINTER MEALS FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

National charity against homelessness, StreetSmart Australia, has today launched its Winter Appeal with the aim to provide 5,000 meals to people at risk or experiencing homelessness this winter through its SmartMeals program.

SmartMeals has double the impact by partnering local cafes & restaurants devastated by the pandemic to provide meals for their local overstretched homeless community groups.

StreetSmart says although COVID-19 restrictions are easing, the need for food security in the homeless sector is growing, so it is urging the public to consider making an end of financial year donation to help continue this vital program.

“The devastating effect of the pandemic is still being felt throughout local community groups and homeless shelters. Most organisations are seeing a big increase in people needing their services, including many people walking through the doors who have never experienced homelessness before,” said Geoff Hills, Chief Operations and Fundraising, StreetSmart Australia.

Community organisations taking part in the program say it has been a vital source of food and support for their clients, and if these meals weren’t available many may have gone hungry.

“It’s been exceptionally well received and invaluable for everyone involved especially regarding the mental health of our street friends during these weird times we now live in. My son and I have also been writing notes to them and including it in their packs which they love. We would love to continue for as long as possible,” said, Chris Cleary, Founder, StreetMed Inc.

SmartMeals began as an emergency response to the pandemic and to date, has provided over 10,000 meals to people in need and distributed more than \$100,000 to keep hospitality workers employed.

Every \$10 donated provides a hearty, nutritious meal and keeps venue staff in jobs. Consider making a donation here: <https://streetsmartaustralia.org/donate/>

- ENDS -

Contact: Courtney Rayner, Community Manager, StreetSmart // courtney@streetsmartaustralia.org // 0439 784 890

StreetSmart Australia is a national not-for-profit organisation that raises funds to support and provide grants to grassroots community groups which focus on homelessness in Australia. StreetSmart keeps it local by connecting businesses with their neighbourhood shelters, action groups and projects, so funds raised directly help people in their own community. The core belief of StreetSmart is that everyone should have a safe and secure place to call home and aims to raise funds and awareness to bring about change for people experiencing homelessness or at risk. Since it was founded in 2003, StreetSmart has distributed more than \$6 million to over 600 local organisations across Australia.