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## **DineSmart is Here and Making it Simple to Give Back This Christmas**

As we wrap up another year, many of us turn our minds to friends, family and to those who are less fortunate. DineSmart is back and, with a host of new restaurants taking part, it's simple to lend a hand to people who are homeless this Christmas.

Since 2003 DineSmart has applied the simple model of asking diners to chip in an extra \$1 on their bill and granting those donations to combat homelessness in the local community. You won't be able to get a loved one a present with \$1 this Christmas, but you could help change someone's life, and it's the collective power of restaurants and locals working together that makes it such a success.

This year there are more than 125 participating restaurants and the campaign runs from **November 21st – December 31st** with hopes to raise at least \$250,000 for homelessness projects during the busy run into Christmas.

Now entering its' 16th year, DineSmart has helped to raise over \$5million in essential funds. Who would have thought that the simple idea of asking diners to leave a small donation on their bill could have made such a huge impact for so many people experiencing homelessness?

Sadly, homelessness is on the rise and on any given night there are an estimated 116,000 people without a safe, secure place to call home. With unprecedented demand, and shrinking funding, the funds raised by DineSmart have become an essential lifeline for frontline services and been a key source of funding for innovative ideas.

DineSmart has sparked a number of innovative projects that are leading local responses to homelessness. Organisations such as Orange Sky Laundry, HOMIE, The Street Socceros, FareShare, Wear for Success, and Second Bite, all received early funding from DineSmart and have gone on to have lasting impact.

DineSmart welcomes new restaurants including Broadsheet Kitchen at Saint Crispin, Noir Restaurant, Supernormal, Ryne, Nighthawk Diner, Luke's Kitchen, La Cache a Vin and more. To find all the restaurants involved check out the google map and list at [www.streetsmartaustralia.org/dinesmart](http://www.streetsmartaustralia.org/dinesmart)

***“Christmas is a time when many people struggle, particularly those who are homeless. On the flip side many of us are out and about having a good time, catching up with family and friends. DineSmart is a simple idea that gives us all the opportunity to chip in a small donation to help fund some critically important and innovative community projects. What else will you do with \$1 this Christmas, that will have such a profound impact on someone's life?”***

Adam Robinson, Founder and CEO, StreetSmart Australia

**ENDS.**

For more information about how to Dine Out and Help Someone Sleeping Out visit: [www.streetsmartaustralia.org/dinesmart](http://www.streetsmartaustralia.org/dinesmart)

For interviews and photo opportunities please contact Geoff on 0428 909 097

