

STREETSMART

ACTION AGAINST HOMELESSNESS

SMART MEALS

Impact Report

November 2021





WHY SMART MEALS?



SmartMeals was launched as a dual impact initiative in response to the Covid-19 crisis in March 2020.

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SmartMeals was launched as a dual impact initiative in response to the Covid-19 crisis in March 2020. Food insecurity was rising rapidly as lock-downs caused widespread financial instability and left rough sleepers housed in accommodation without cooking facilities. It was also increasingly evident that many restaurants were out of business and unable to support their staff, some of whom were not entitled to government programs such as JobKeeper and JobSeeker. SmartMeals was launched as a way of pairing these two community cohorts, providing income and job security for the hospitality sector workers,

while responding rapidly to the increased need within vulnerable communities for food relief and assistance. In 2021, the program was relaunched with a focus upon partnering with food based social enterprises to ensure disadvantaged people had the opportunity to upskill and deliver ready-made meals to people experiencing food insecurity. This new chapter of SmartMeals enabled our Social Enterprise partners to continue to provide vital job training, readiness and pathway programs for vulnerable people in a difficult jobs market.



2021 Key Impact Outcomes

Employment and training

SmartMeals funding has supported the training and employment of disadvantaged youth, refugees, long-term unemployed, and people with disabilities.

Emergency Food Relief

Social Enterprises have cooked nutritious and culturally appropriate meals for their local at-risk communities across 5 States, targeting rough-sleepers, domestic violence survivors, youth, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Community Collaborations

Nearly 70% of Social enterprises received 5 or more grants over a 10 month period. This consistent funding supported the building of new partnerships, facilitating the development of lasting networks of community support.

State	SmartMeals Social Enterprise Partner
VIC	ASRC Catering
VIC	Bendigo Food Share
VIC	Common Ground Project
NSW	Darcy Street Project
QLD	Deadly Espresso Cafe
QLD	Emerge Cafe
QLD	Espresso Train Cafe - Nundah community enterprises
SA	Food for Futures
VIC	For Change (formerly Society Melbourne)
VIC	Free to Feed
VIC	HomeGround Cafe - Tanti Park Social Enterprises Ltd
QLD	Hope St Cafe - MICAHA Projects
NSW	House of Welcome
VIC	Kinfolk
QLD	Lagoon Creek Cafe
TAS	Loaves & Fishes
VIC	Moon Rabbit Cafe- Preston Neighbourhood House
VIC	Need Nutrition
NSW	Parliament on King
NSW	Plate it Forward
VIC	Social Engine Canteen
VIC	STREAT
VIC	The Little Social - Youth Projects
NSW	The Met Cafe - Southern Youth and Family Services
VIC	The Mission Caters

Since Inception..

626

Days Running



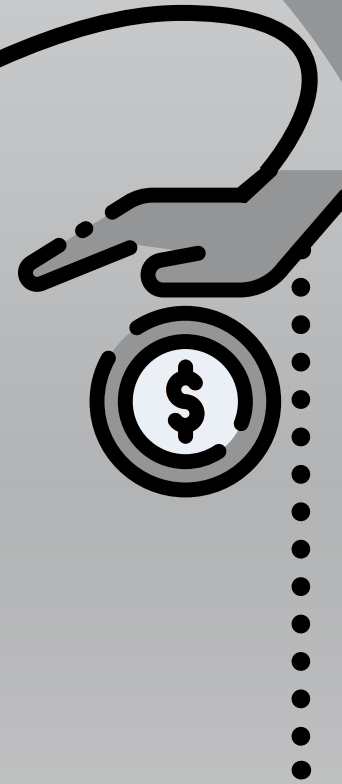
259,665

Emergency Meals
Provided



150

Charity Partners



\$1,385,583

Funds Distributed

Just in 2021 alone we have had....

148,665

Meals Made by
Social Enterprises

89

Trainees &
Employees
Supported

\$443,039

In Funding
Given to
Social Enterprises

25

Social
Enterprise
Partners

6804

Hours of Training
& Employment
Support



EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING OUTCOMES

*"SmartMeals subsidises
employment for our
workers with disabilities"*

Lagoon Creek Càfe, QLD

*"SmartMeals was a saviour
for our business!"*

For Change Co. VIC



"It has helped us employ one Community Member who had been long-term unemployed and lived in social housing, with 30 hours of employment per week.

SmartMeals also contributed to the employment of 2 Temporary Visa Holders who are ineligible for Government Benefits during this period of time for 30 hours per week."

**Shaun Christie-David
Plate it Forward, NSW**



"This program has meant that our workers have job security, knowing that they will not lose hours because of the impact of COVID.

SmartMeals subsidised 25 hours per week of paid employment at Lagoon Creek Cafe for people with intellectual disabilities who would have otherwise been unemployed."

**Deb Griesheimer
Lagoon Creek Cafe, QLD.**



"Our community partners are very keen for the quality and types of culturally appropriate meals provided by SmartMeals.

Each month we do SmartMeals, it helps provide 80-90 hours of work for our kitchen and delivery staff. It allows them to feel productive, useful and connected to the community"

**Cassandra Godden
STREAT, VIC**

PROVIDING EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF

*"I can't tell you how much it
means to be able to rely on
these meals each day"*

SmartMeals Recipient



“Sophie* is a 34yo mother with two children under 5 years who suddenly left her family home to escape her violent partner.

Being able to feed herself and her children is critical to Sophie, and with very little money and fear of going out due to the risk of seeing her partner, she relies on support services like Food 4 Futures to deliver nutritious and easy to heat food for her and her children.”

Food For Futures
Jo Goodwin, SA



“Meals supplied to InTouch support households of women & children from multicultural backgrounds who are experiencing or moving on from family violence.

The complexity of their challenging circumstances is difficult to encapsulate in one sentence, but suffice to say the meals are greatly needed & appreciated by this community.”

Johanna Reilly
Kinfolk, VIC



“Many young people in casual work lose income immediately and those living rough become even more vulnerable during lock down periods.

The extra support from StreetSmart meant that we could immediately offer assistance with extra food including cooked meals. I don't think anyone can know the relief that this brings to some of these young people”

Narelle Clay
Southern Youth and Family Services, NSW

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS



Parliament on King employ asylum seeker and refugee chefs to cook for people experiencing homelessness, and through SmartMeals, began a collaboration with Deadly Connections, to deliver emergency food relief to HotSpot LGA's and Indigenous communities.



"The SmartMeals program has allowed us to employ women seeking asylum in the community to prepare meals for food relief organisations."

We have collaborated with OneCare Geelong, Kardinia Early Learning Centre, and Feed Me Surf Coast. The meals have supported people experiencing homelessness, social isolation, unemployment, and those from CALD backgrounds."

Greta Carroll, Common Ground, VIC



"Our collaboration with the Red Cross Night Café started when the SmartMeals funding came in, before that we didn't have the capacity. We've been supplying vulnerable youth on the streets with 80 meals a week through that partnership and another 10 meals go to at-risk local school kids via Community Connections."

Another collaboration with Community Living Associations supports 25 adults with cognitive disabilities to socialise over a meal. The free SmartMeals give everybody a bit more time to interact without financial stress"

Kirsty Leigh, Espresso Train Café, QLD



"Every Wednesday we deliver 80-100 hot meals for Deadly Connections to distribute in RedFern and Waterloo. There are outcomes of this program on multiple levels, outside of just the number of meals and number of employed people, there's beautiful community building also."

Ravi Prasad, Parliament on King, NSW

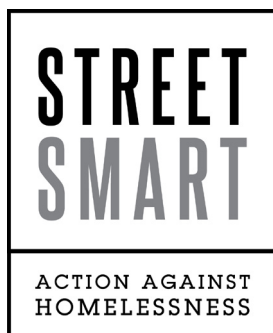
WHAT'S NEXT...

What's Next for SmartMeals - 2022

The SmartMeals program was an **emergency response** to the COVID-19 crisis. It has continued to be vital over a **20 month period** to so many. However, current funding reserves have been expended and the program will close on **17th December**. **Food insecurity** is still a major issue for **millions** of Australians and this is not an issue that will be resolved by current Government policies. Poverty, driven by inadequate welfare payments and a lack of affordable rental properties, is driving this on-going demand for support. Our charity partners have expressed the importance of the SmartMeals program continuing, so StreetSmart will be raising funds over November and December to kickstart our **SmartMeals program in 2022**.



THANK YOU.



Contact

For further details of the SmartMeals program and the work of StreetSmart Australia please contact Geoff Hills, CEO, geoff@streetsmartaustralia.org

Thank You for Making SmartMeals Possible.

This initiative has been an 'all of community' response to help keep fellow Australians safe during a once in a generation pandemic. From the very beginning we have been fortunate to have funding partners who could see what we were doing and achieving, and backed us in. Funding has come from a wide range of Corporate donors, Trusts and Foundations, DineSmart restaurant owners, staff and customers and the general public. They have all responded generously to enable the program to run for 626 days. We are humbled by the support of our key SmartMeals funders and our sincere thanks go out to every donor, big or small, who have made sure people didn't go hungry and that social enterprises could survive the turmoil of lock-downs and remain training and employing vulnerable people.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our organisation is located and where we conduct our business, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present, and emerging. StreetSmart is committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.