Media Release
For immediate release

HOW YOUR FESTIVE MEAL CAN HELP FEED A VULNERABLE PERSON IN A FOOD CRISIS

"Knowing someone cares means so much… without this meal I would have gone to bed hungry," said Peter.

When catching up with friends and work colleagues this month for a festive meal or picking up dinner after work, diners are being given the opportunity to pay it forward and help provide a meal to someone in need.

For 18 years, DineSmart has brought together restaurants and their diners to raise money for local homeless charities. Funds are usually distributed for a range of local projects, however, this year the pandemic has created a devastating food security crisis and DineSmart is taking action. Access to food for people at risk or experiencing homelessness has been severely impacted, with many community kitchens still closed or severely understaffed.

"Right now, we are in the midst of an unprecedented food security crisis. Many people have been affected by the pandemic and now find themselves in a position where they're turning to homelessness services for the first time. This means already overstretched charities are providing services for more people and need our help.

DineSmart gives customers the opportunity to chip in $2 onto their bill, both dine in and takeaway, to support vulnerable people who cannot afford to eat," said Geoff Hills, Chief of Operations and Fundraising, StreetSmart Australia.

Funds raised will be providing hearty and nutritious meals to single people and whole families who are doing it tough right now and may otherwise not have eaten.

In Melbourne, just a few of the participating restaurants include Chin Chin, Supernormal, Hanoi Hannah, Ladro, Port Phillip Estate and Stalactites. And in Sydney, Chin Chin, The Apollo, Cho Cho San, Secolo Dining and Belmonte Italian Cuisine are a few of the venues taking part.

Last year, DineSmart raised $191k to fund 33 community grants across Australia. The campaign has helped raise over $7 million to fund essential and innovative responses to homelessness.

To find your local participating restaurant or donate online (until 31 Dec 2020), visit:
https://streetsmartaustralia.org/dinesmart/

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Photo and interview opportunities available.

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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 $7 million to over 700 local organisations across Australia.