Media Release

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50,000 MEALS DELIVERED TO VULNERABLE AUSTRALIANS

"Receiving SmartMeals makes me feel full of love… It might seem like a small act but you're effectively changing the lives of people." - Lana

Food security program, SmartMeals, has just delivered it's 50,000th meal to someone either at risk or experiencing homelessness. And during September will be delivering over 1,000 meals per day.

The initiative was created by homeless charity StreetSmart Australia in March when the pandemic hit and while initially intended as a month-long program, has now grown to 50 charity partners receiving meals through 40 hospitality partners.

"The detrimental effect of the pandemic is still being felt throughout local community groups and homeless shelters. SmartMeals has double the impact by providing meals to vulnerable Australians who would have otherwise gone hungry, while keeping staff employed at venues that have been devastated by COVID-19," said Geoff Hills, Chief Operations and Fundraising, StreetSmart Australia.

SmartMeals are being delivered to a wide range of people in need, including those who were previously sleeping rough on the streets now housed in vacant hotels because food is not supplied.

Community partners have said the program is helping ease the burden during these uncertain times and being able to provide a meal and check in with clients is invaluable. With many walking through their doors for the first time because the pandemic has impacted their livelihood.

When receiving his meal at St Mary's House of Welcome, Peter* said, "If it wasn't for these meals, I would go hungry. I have no money and nowhere to cook food."

A team member handing out SmartMeals at Connect Community Care in Frankston, said, "My heart ached as this lady came to me for meals and had three kids with her. It impacted me so much that we could give something to eat".

StreetSmart is encouraging the public to help SmartMeals continue to deliver meals to people in need. Every $10 donated provides a hearty, nutritious meal and keeps venue staff in jobs. Consider making a donation here: https://streetsmartaustralia.org/smartmeals

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*Name has been changed for privacy

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 $6.7 million to over 700 local organisations across Australia.