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MEDIA RELEASE

Local charity SecondBite wins in the Community Category of the 2010 Premier's Sustainability Awards

SecondBite was last night announced as the joint winner in the Community Category at the 2010 Premier's Sustainability Awards for their tireless work in re-distributing fresh surplus food to people in need.

The Premier's Sustainability Awards recognise innovation and outstanding achievement in sustainability, and SecondBite is proud to be recognised at the awards held last night at the six-star green star-rated Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

In 2009, SecondBite stopped 702 tonnes of fresh food going to landfill, instead re-distributing it to 160 agencies and thousands of people who are homeless or living in disadvantaged circumstances. That's enough to provide 1.4million hearty nutritious meals.

'We see sustainability as more than just an environmental objective, but as a complete way of operating a not-for-profit organisation. Re-distributing fresh food that would otherwise go to waste to people in need is key, but SecondBite as an organisation endeavours to be sustainable in all areas. Our programs and initiatives are designed to provide lasting benefit and impact through education and raising awareness,' said Katy Barfield, CEO, SecondBite.

In Victoria over 300,000 people go without a meal at some stage during the year, and at the same time more than 700,000 tonnes of food ends up in landfill, however the work that SecondBite is doing means that one problem can become the solution for the other.

SecondBite's annual survey found that 90% of the community groups they support have reported an increase in demand for their food relief programs in 2009, so this award will hopefully lead to more food donors and financial supporters and an expansion of SecondBite's much needed resources.

The commitment to the community by SecondBite was evident in Katy's acceptance speech, with the award being dedicated to the tireless volunteers who provide the backbone of any not-for-profit organisation, and also; *"to the agencies that provide nutritious, culturally appropriate meals, day in day out to people who would otherwise would not have access to fresh food, this is for you"*.

SecondBite is a dynamic, not-for-profit organisation committed to making a positive difference to people by sourcing quality surplus fresh food that would otherwise go to waste and re-distributing it to agencies and people in need.

Contact Person: Russell Shields, SecondBite
Phone: (03) 9376 3800, 0400 939 234
Web: www.secondbite.org
Email address: russell@secondbite.org