

Ted Baillieu MP

Leader of the Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition
Leader of the Opposition
Leader of the Liberal Party
Shadow Minister for the Arts



Phone: 9651 8512 • Fax: 9651 8426
Email: ted.baillieu@parliament.vic.gov.au

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BAILLIEU URGES VICTORIANS TO GIVE A SECONDBITE TO CHARITY AT CHRISTMAS

Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Leader Ted Baillieu has urged Victorians to think of families doing it tough this Christmas and give generously to charities helping those in need.

Packing and delivering food at the SecondBite food charity in Kensington and St Mary's House of Welcome in Fitzroy this morning, Mr Baillieu said Victorian charities do a great job of making life better at Christmas to individuals and families.

"Christmas is a time of celebration and good cheer, but for many Victorians it is also a time of loneliness and deprivation," Mr Baillieu said.

"Charities such as SecondBite help to improve the lives of many Victorians at Christmas and Victorians should help out wherever they can.

"This year, SecondBite collected and redistributed 700 tonnes of fresh food that would have otherwise gone to waste and delivered fresh produce weekly to 115 food relief agencies and community groups.

"During the festive period SecondBite provides the ingredients for hundreds of Christmas lunches across the community sector, helping charities who are already financially stretched.

"SecondBite is an excellent community-based organisation with more than 300 volunteers.

"But they are only one of many Victorian groups who are making Christmas more bearable for families in need," Mr Baillieu said.

SecondBite Food Program Manager Russell Shields said SecondBite is proud to serve the community with deliveries of fresh nutritious food that would otherwise have gone to waste.

"At this time of year demand certainly increases, and it is a privilege to serve so many wonderful community groups who provide a hearty and healthy Christmas lunch and that much-needed festive cheer," Mr Shields said.

Mr Baillieu said there were many ways Victorians could help others over the Christmas period.

"Volunteering or donating unwanted goods are simple ways you can help improve the lives of your fellow Victorians." Mr Baillieu said.

Media: Simon Troeth 0439 300 335