

17/6/2008

## **The Tasmanian Government Says 'Yes' to Important New Legislation And SecondBite Tasmania is born!**

On 8<sup>th</sup> May 2008, SecondBite Executive Director, Katy Barfield approached the Tasmanian Government and asked them to consider introducing legislation to protect from liability, those who donate food for charitable purposes.

As a result of this meeting, SecondBite has cause to celebrate as the Tasmanian government has decided to pass the 'Civil Liability Bill 2008'.

SecondBite currently operates in Victoria under a similar Bill (the Good Samaritan Act, 2002) distributing fresh surplus food from markets, wholesalers and retailers to people in need. Since January 2007 SecondBite has collected and redistributed over 200 tonnes of fresh surplus food to over 47 agencies throughout Melbourne. (enough food to provide 400,000 nutritious meals)

When you consider that 3.28 million tonnes of fresh food was thrown away in Australia last year, whilst in stark contrast tens of thousands of Australians were registered homeless, collecting fresh surplus food and delivering it in it's raw state is an extremely cost effective way to provide nutritious ingredients to the many agencies who provide emergency food relief to people in need.

This parliamentary coup will encourage Tasmanian businesses to donate food and gives SecondBite the green-light to begin operations in Tasmania by the end of 2008.

SecondBite will be the first organisation in Tasmania to focus solely on the collection of fresh surplus food and its direct delivery to agencies and people in need. Due to overwhelming requests from local community organisations they will now commence collections in Hobart with a view to expanding Tasmania wide. Initially, they will collect from the famous Salamanca markets, local festivals & events, a variety of local retailers and wholesalers, delivering it to recipients such as: The Salvation Army, St Vincent's, Bethlehem House, Red Cross, Anglicare, Mission Australia and many others.

This is a landmark decision for Tasmania and SecondBite are extremely pleased with the outcome.

*"I congratulate the Tasmanian Government for expediting this legislation; SecondBite Melbourne has seen phenomenal growth in its first two years and if the generous response from the Tasmanian Government and local community to date is any indication of things to come then SecondBite Tasmania will be able to offer immediate and vital support to the many agencies and community groups that provide food for people in need.*

*"- Katy Barfield, Executive Director- SecondBite*

**What:** Announcement of new legislation in Tasmania allowing traders to donate food for charitable purposes with protection from common law liability.

**Where:** Parliament House Hobart

**When:** 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2008

**Photo opportunity and Interview available in Melbourne on request.**

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\* Community Indicators [www.communityindicators.com](http://www.communityindicators.com)