

Penrith, 13 March 2019

### **Community kitchen wins renovation rescue**

Penrith Community Kitchen will receive a much-needed upgrade, thanks to a \$7,156 grant from resource management company SUEZ.

The funds will allow for the purchase and installation of new energy-efficient equipment and facilities for the kitchen, including a new refrigerator and lighting, with the aim of reducing energy and waste costs. It will also cover improvements to the meal room to make it safer and more inviting, along with the establishment of a kitchen garden.

Penrith Community Kitchen President, Bob Baines said that the group aims to encourage community involvement in the initiative, particularly in developing and maintaining the vegetable garden.

“We plan to establish our own sustainable veggie garden with the assistance of local schools and Bunnings to supplement the generous supplies we receive from local businesses,” Mr Baines said.

“We aim to engage all levels of our community in the project, which will help us provide a free cooked lunchtime meal to more people in need.”

The organisation also plans to run a competition for local school students to create inspirational community messages and pictures to adorn the walls of the kitchen and dining area.

Visiting the kitchen on 13 March 2019 to present the cheque to Penrith Community Kitchen, Geoff Gerard, SUEZ Infrastructure Sales and Customer Relations Manager for NSW said that the company was delighted to support the organisation’s important work in the local community.

“We are pleased to provide them with this grant to upgrade their facilities so that they can operate more sustainably, reduce their operating costs and engage more members of the local community to get involved,” said Mr Gerard. “It is exciting to see local initiatives aimed at minimising food and organic waste as well as providing much needed services to the broader community.”

“For more than 20 years, the Penrith Community Kitchen has helped so many people in need by offering them not only nourishment, but also company and dignity” said Cathy Craig, Kitchen Coordinator at Penrith Community Kitchen.

Penrith Community Kitchen provides more than 500 hot lunches each week to people with health and social integration difficulties, served in a welcoming environment that is respectful of their right to privacy and cultural variances.

Mayor of Penrith City Council, Mr Ross Fowler OAM, also attended the presentation and

said, “Penrith Community Kitchen has been providing essential services to the community for a number of years. This grant from SUEZ will enable them to continue providing this much-needed service. On behalf of Penrith City Council, I’d like to thank SUEZ and all the volunteers at Penrith Community Kitchen for the great work they do.”

Now in its fifth year, the SUEZ Community Grants program has donated more than \$740,000 in funding to community organisations and projects across Australia that help communities and the environment thrive.

Learn more about the SUEZ Community Grants program, the successful applicants and their projects at [www.suezcommunitygrants.com.au](http://www.suezcommunitygrants.com.au).

- Ends-

**SUEZ Media Office: (02) 8775 5527**

***About SUEZ***

*SUEZ finds smart and reliable resource management solutions to make the best use of water and waste for towns, cities, business and industry.*

