

Melbourne, 14 May 2019

Language no barrier to sustainable shopping

Springvale Neighbourhood House will partner with local Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities to lead positive environmental change, supported by a \$3500 grant from resource management company SUEZ.

The innovative Non-English Speaking Community Environmental Awareness & Action project aims to raise awareness among CALD communities of the environmental damage caused by plastic bag littering, promote plastic recycling and encourage the use of reusable shopping bags.

Funds will be used to employ a project worker to lead the initiative, with a focus on engaging community leaders via existing forums to take the message out into their respective communities.

“Other project activities include multicultural sewing groups making shopping bags from recycled and donated materials, a ‘clean up the railway’ working bee to raise awareness of how much plastic and other waste is dumped along the walking pathways, and mindfulness workshops focussing on mindful use and disposal of plastic bags,” said Springvale Neighbourhood House Manager, Melanie Virtue.

“We will raise awareness in our community of the need to dispose of plastic bags mindfully and to use alternative bags wherever possible.”

SUEZ State General Manager, Nathaniel Bryant visited Springvale Neighbourhood House on May 14, 2019 to present the cheque to Chairperson Melinda Hamilton, and Deputy Chairpersons Hayat Doughan and Mohamed Mohamed.

“This is a wonderful community-led initiative to spread the message about the environmental damage caused by plastic bags and educate each other in more sustainable alternatives,” said Mr Bryant.

“We believe that when they come together to take action, communities have real power to make a significant difference to their local environment. We’re pleased to be able to support this important project to remove barriers to participation.”

Springvale Neighbourhood House is home to 48 community groups and is committed to community development, social inclusion, cultural connection and the celebration of multiculturalism.

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.

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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.

