



MEDIA RELEASE

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CITY OF MELBOURNE COMMITS TO SUPPORTING WOMEN

The City of Melbourne have shown their commitment to building a stronger, more inclusive community by becoming a *Foundation Subscriber* to The Big Issue's ground-breaking new initiative specifically for homeless women, The Women's Subscription Enterprise.

With more than 46 000 homeless women around Australia every night, The City of Melbourne, a long time supporter of The Big Issue, have thrown their support behind The Women's Subscription Enterprise taking 30 subscriptions for their reception areas and libraries to help kick start the program

For every 100 subscriptions sold, The Big Issue will employ one homeless woman to work as a dispatch assistant – collating, sorting and packing magazines for distribution each fortnight. The women will also be given access to childcare and travel support along with the opportunity to learn new skills and have access to training in a safe, secure and supportive environment.

City of Melbourne CEO Kathy Alexander says the Women's Subscription Enterprise is a perfect fit with the Council's values of diversity, innovation and sustainability.

"What The Big Issue has done is create a world-first social enterprise specifically designed to help disadvantaged Australian women improve their lives by giving them the skills and training they need to build a better future," Ms Alexander said.

"It is an exciting initiative based in Melbourne that will not only improve the lives of disadvantaged women, but will also go a long way to help create a more sustainable and fair Australia."

Natalie Susman, Head of the Women's Subscription Enterprise, said the support of the business community was critical to the success of the initiative.

"By supporting the Women's Subscription Enterprise, the City of Melbourne has demonstrated their commitment to ending poverty and homelessness in our community, and to empowering women to take control of their futures and the futures of their children," Ms Susman said.

To find out more go to www.thebigissue.org.au/womens

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