



Media release

For immediate release: Wednesday 19 March 2025

**** NEW OZHARVEST HUB OPENS IN WESTERN SYDNEY IN RESPONSE TO RECORD LEVELS OF NEED ****

OzHarvest has opened a new food rescue hub in Western Sydney to meet the growing demand for food relief as the cost-of-living crisis pushes more Australians into food insecurity. Based in Wetherill Park, the hub will rescue and deliver food across five routes, including Liverpool, Campbelltown, Penrith, Richmond, and Mt Annan, with two more to be added by June 2025.

OzHarvest Founder Ronni Kahn AO said the need for food relief continues at an all-time high and the new hub will help address the demand in this area of high need. "This is the toughest it's ever been. Our charity partners tell us that people are desperate, with over a third needing help for the first time in their lives. We're doing whatever we can to make sure vulnerable communities are supported - every meal we rescue makes a real difference."

NSW State Manager, Richard Watson said an additional 75,000 kgs of food will be rescued annually. "The new OzHarvest hub will improve efficiency, cutting down travel time for our drivers allowing them to start and end their journeys in the heart of Western Sydney. This will result in more food getting where it's needed most - supporting an extra 75 food pickups per week and taking 25 charities off the waitlist for food."

Nathan Moulds, Food and Financial Assistance, Senior Program Manager, Anglicare is one of the 75 charities receiving food from the new hub. "The OzHarvest hub has opened new avenues of food support that we can pass on to families and individuals in need. The volume of food has been a game changer for us and is helping us continue to scale our outreach and support for to 60+ locations in the region."

The new hub is part of OzHarvest's wider expansion plans to better support people in need in Western Sydney, aiming to grow the reach of education programs, improve access to larger food suppliers, and recruit local team members.

This much-needed project has been made possible thanks to funding from the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (NSWEPA) allowing us to sign a new two-year lease in the heart of Western Sydney. National Food Rescue partner Woolworths is committed to supporting the new hub with increased quality food donations from 32 stores, expanding to add seven more stores by June 2025.

OzHarvest is urging all political parties to take bold action ahead of the federal election.

"To meet the skyrocketing demand for food relief, we're calling for urgent action to provide sustainable long-term funding for the sector. Australia needs a National Food Plan and a dedicated Minister for Food to address food insecurity and food waste holistically," said Ronni Kahn.

OzHarvest continues to support the 'Raise the Rate' campaign led by ACOSS, calling for welfare increases to help lift people out of poverty and improve food security nationwide.

[Ends]

Proudly funded by





Nourishing Our Country

Media release

Media Contact:

media@ozharvest.org

Jenny Lim | OzHarvest Media & Comms Manager | 0452 321209

Fiona Nearn | National Brand & Comms Lead | 0405 588186

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 8–9 AM

📍 **Unit 17, 62-66 Newton Road, Wetherill Park 2164**

8.00	New hub official opening for drivers, partners and community stakeholders Breakfast served from OzHarvest Food Truck
8.15	Formalities and speeches
8.30	Tour of facility, interviews,
8.45	Vision of vans loading up, drivers hit the road
9.00	Event ends

Vision:

New warehouse hub in action - five yellow OzHarvest vans, food being loaded up into vans.

IMAGES AND BROLL AVAILABLE AFTER THE EVENT from media@ozharvest.org

Interviews:

Ronni Kahn	OzHarvest Founder & Visionary-in-Residence
James Goth	OzHarvest CEO
Richard Watson	NSW State Manager, OzHarvest
Nathan Moulds	Senior Program Manager – Food and Financial Assistance, Anglicare (before 8.40 am)

ABOUT OZHARVEST:

Founded by Ronni Kahn AO in 2004, OzHarvest is Australia's leading food rescue organisation, collecting quality surplus food from more than 2,600 businesses, including supermarkets, restaurants, cafes, hotels, retailers, airports and retail food outlets. Every week over 300 tonnes of food is saved from going to landfill and delivered to 1,500+ charitable agencies, helping to make a positive difference to the lives of vulnerable people across Australia. OzHarvest's education programs include: NEST - tailor made workshops that support people in need with nutrition education and life skills, Nourish - a hospitality training program for 'at risk' youth, FEAST – a curriculum aligned program for primary and high school student. To inspire behavioural change and make it easy to waste less at home, OzHarvest launched their Use It Up tape and campaign. OzHarvest operates nationally in Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Gold Coast, Melbourne, Newcastle, Perth, NT, Tasmania and in regional communities and to date has delivered over 280 million meals and saved over 90,000 tonnes of food from landfill. Every \$1 donated allows OzHarvest to deliver two meals to people in need

www.ozharvest.org

Proudly funded by

