

Media release

16 March 2017

Make a high five donation this Friday at Southern Cross Station

Morning commuters passing through Southern Cross Station on Friday can help vulnerable Victorians with their energy use and it will only cost them a high five.

For each person who high fives 'Dave', EnergyAustralia will donate \$1 towards Kildonan UnitingCare's energy visits and appliance swap program. As well as supporting a great cause, the event is a last hurrah for EnergyAustralia's month-long takeover of Southern Cross.

Stella Avramopoulos, Chief Executive Officer of Kildonan UnitingCare, said the money raised will help people experiencing hardship who otherwise can't afford to make these changes.

"Saving money on electricity bills and having appliances that operate efficiently can make a huge difference to households that are struggling," Ms Avramopoulos said.

"We're making sure the appliances people have in their homes aren't wasting energy and are operating efficiently, so that energy bills can be more manageable for those who are experiencing hardship."

EnergyAustralia Chief Customer Officer Kim Clarke said Friday is an opportunity to light the way to better energy use for some of Victoria's most vulnerable consumers.

"Energy costs are increasing. This is an unfortunate fact we should not shy away from. We want to ensure all Australians are aware of the options they have to use energy better. Choosing the right appliances can be key to achieving this," Ms Clarke said.

"This cause is important to us because it ensures some of the most vulnerable people in our community have the opportunity to decrease their ongoing weekly expenses through more energy efficient appliances. However, swapping out appliances can be expensive. We are going to make it that little bit easier for the people who need it most.

"We'd like to see each passer-by do their part on Friday morning. EnergyAustralia will be funding the donation; we just want a high five from commuters. If you're going into the city on Friday, please consider going via Southern Cross Station to see Dave."

Through face-to-face energy visits, Kildonan supports households to increase their energy efficiency and save money on energy bills. The money raised will be used for appliance swaps, retrofitting items such as external shade cloths and draught sealing, and servicing/repairs to appliances.

Commuters will spot Dave as they come out of the station on the bridge. There'll be plenty of action between 6am and 9am at the end of Bourke Street, with giveaways and a live cross with NOVA 100.

-ENDS-

For further information please contact: EnergyAustralia: Brendan Hennessy 03 8628 1106