



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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THERESE REIN ANNOUNCED AS PATRON OF OZHARVEST

Australia's most recognised food rescue charity, OzHarvest, today announced Thérèse Rein, businesswoman and wife of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, as its patron.

OzHarvest is a not-for-profit organisation that rescues unwanted food from restaurants, retailers, food outlets and corporate kitchens across Sydney, Canberra, Newcastle and Wollongong, distributing it to charities and homeless shelters daily.

OzHarvest's founding director Ronni Kahn, Australia's Local Hero for 2010, is delighted to welcome Ms Rein as the patron of OzHarvest.

"OzHarvest has come such a long way since our first van collected its first parcel of unwanted food five years ago. Today we have seven vans on the road and with someone of Therese's stature and reputation on board as our inaugural patron, we can see the momentum growing daily.

"Now I can clearly see the day when OzHarvest will be truly national – hopefully within just a couple of years," Kahn said.

Since 2004, OzHarvest has delivered a staggering five million meals and currently they distribute 120,000 meals every month to 190 charities. Not only does OzHarvest help the disadvantaged, it also diverts good food from being wasted.

In her role as patron, Ms Rein hopes to encourage more organisations to participate and donate unwanted food to OzHarvest.

In her first official duty as patron, Ms Rein will launch a campaign to **FEED SYDNEY** on June 1, a month-long initiative of OzHarvest in association with Do Something, the action group headed by Jon Dee.

Ms Rein said, *"What impresses me about OzHarvest is the way they seize the opportunity to rescue good food and quickly pass it onto others. I am very pleased to be involved with Ronni Kahn's valuable work."*

Australian households alone throw away roughly \$5.2 billion worth of food every year and it is estimated that close to three million tonnes of food per annum ends up in the rubbish.¹

*For more information about OzHarvest please contact:
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¹ Baker, D. Fear, J. & Denniss R. (2009), What a Waste, *The Australia Institute*, November 2009

About OzHarvest:

Ronni Kahn heads up OzHarvest, the nation's leading food rescue operation that has been feeding Sydney, Canberra, Wollongong and Newcastle's hungry for the past five years. Kahn is also Australia's Local Hero 2010, part of the Australian of the Year awards, and has worked tirelessly to bring the issue of food recovery to the mainstream. Ronni has been a NSW Australia Day Ambassador for the last three years and was a finalist in two categories of Telstra Business Women's Awards 2008. In December 2008, Ronni was voted one of the Top 100 Most Influential People in the (sydney) magazine and in April 2009 was named a recipient of the Vodafone Australia Foundation's World of Difference program.

Using a fleet of seven vans, OzHarvest rescues food from restaurants, retailers and food outlets throughout Sydney, Canberra, Wollongong and Newcastle to deliver over 5000 meals each day to 190 charities. Without OzHarvest, many men, women and children would go without a meal. To date, OzHarvest has delivered over five million meals. OzHarvest was founded in November 2004 when Ronni, then an event organiser, was so stunned at the amount of food wasted she did something about it. For more information see www.ozharvest.org

