



22 November 2016

## *Media Statement*

### **Funding to reduce recycling contamination**

- **More than 1,000 nappies a day end up in recycling bins in Perth's south-east**
- **A recent survey found four per cent of households within the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council catchment put nappies in yellow-lid recycling bins**

Funding through Keep Australia Beautiful WA has led to a new educational push to ensure new parents correctly dispose of used disposable nappies, following an increase in recyclable materials' contamination.

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's (SMRC) Canning Vale Regional Resource Recovery Centre is using \$10,000 in Community Litter Grants Scheme funding to support its 'Recycle Right' educational campaign.

SMRC has produced a nappy-shaped flyer to be included in 'Mother-to-be Bounty Bags' – which hospitals deliver to approximately 21,000 new WA mothers each year.

The flyer explains that used nappies should be disposed of in general waste bins and not be disposed of in yellow-lid recycling bins.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council Chairman Michael Aspinall said he wanted to highlight the importance of correct used nappy disposal.

"Supporting projects like this is crucial, given that disposable nappies in yellow-lid recyclable bins end up at resource recovery centres – where they are not only a worker health hazard but also contaminate other recyclable products that are then diverted to landfill at significant cost to the local government," he said.

"I know the SMRC was spurred on to offer this new informative flyer, after determining its Resource Recovery Centre annually receives about 400,000 used nappies from more than 7000 households' yellow lid recycling bins across the Cities of Cockburn, Fremantle, Melville and Kwinana and the Town of East Fremantle."

As part of the campaign, SMRC is also advertising correct nappy disposal methods billboards and buses in Perth.

Further information about correct disposal of nappies and alternatives to disposables can be found on the Recycle Right website.

A new round of Community Litter Grants funding, administered by Keep Australia Beautiful WA, will open in mid-2017.

#### **Fact File**

- **More information on 'Mother-to-be Bounty Bags' is available at**

[www.bountybags.com.au](http://www.bountybags.com.au)

- More information on Recycle Right can be found at <http://recycleright.wa.gov.au/community-information/disposable-nappies/>
- Lot onto [www.kabc.wa.gov.au/resources/community-litter-grants](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au/resources/community-litter-grants)

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