

VICRECYCLE FACTSHEET

VICTORIA'S CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

Information for Community Organisations, Charities, Sporting Clubs & Small Businesses

As part of its *Recycling Victoria* initiative, the Victorian Government will deliver a Container Deposit Scheme. Under a Container Deposit Scheme, a 10 cent refund (including GST) is paid to members of the public when they return each eligible container, such as cans, bottles and PET containers. The Government is currently considering what type of scheme to implement.

How does it work?



Containers are collected at one of hundreds of Refund Points across the state – and members of the public receive 10 cents per eligible container returned.



Refund Point operators sort the collected containers by material type into provided storage bins. Containers are then collected for further processing and recycling.



Refund Point operators are paid a handling fee of up to 6.5 cents for each container collected for their role in the scheme.

Why does the type of scheme matter?

It matters because there's a big difference in the benefits that flow to community organisations, charities, sporting clubs and small businesses.

VicRecycle has been formed by the beverage industry to advocate for a **Community (Producer Responsibility) Scheme** to ensure:

Maximum economic benefits for the community (local community organisations, charities and small businesses) through commercial opportunities or taking part in returns.

This scheme structure (or variations of) operates in QLD, WA, SA and the NT. Under the alternative scheme structure, large international waste companies dominate with the vast majority of economic benefit moving offshore, at the expense of involvement and revenue for local communities.

What are the differences?

Independent modelling shows a big difference. Under a Community (Producer Responsibility) Scheme:



Victorian Community Organisations (including football clubs, charities, community organisations) will benefit from up to \$64m per year in new revenue, \$607m over the first decade of operation.



Small and medium sized businesses (including pubs and local businesses) will stand to gain up to \$88m per annum.



An estimated **1220 jobs will be created**, compared with an estimate of only 445 if an alternative scheme is adopted.

How can community organisations, sporting clubs, charities & small business benefit?

Under a Community (Producer Responsibility) Scheme there are many different ways community organisations, sporting clubs, charities and small businesses can benefit. Organisations can choose the level(s) of involvement that most suits their particular situation.

It can be anything from simply using a scheme account to raise funds through virtual donations, right up to commercial involvement as a Refund Point that collects and sorts returned containers and pays refunds to the public.



Donation Points

- ♻️ A Donation Point is where organisations receive containers donated by members of the public.
- ♻️ Charities, sporting clubs and community organisations can operate Donation Points as a form of fundraising to receive these containers as donations.
- ♻️ The organisation then takes donated containers to a Refund Point to receive the 10 cent Refund Amount.



Virtual Donation Points

- ♻️ When members of the public return their containers to a Refund Point, they can elect to have their refund amounts donated directly to a community organisation via a Scheme account. This means charities and organisations can raise funds without physically collecting containers themselves.
- ♻️ For example, in Queensland, more than 2,000 community organisations are registered to receive donated funds through returned containers.

CASE STUDY

Community Organisation – Lions Club

The Lions Club in Cooktown uses Queensland's Containers for Change scheme to fundraise for the local community. Once a week, Lions members go around to local hotels, clubs and caravan parks to collect cans and bottles that have been put aside for collection. The club then cashes these in at the Refund Point down the road, collecting the 10 cents per container.

The Club has used the funds to help supply disability scooters for people in need, scholarships for students and build playgrounds around Cooktown.

Cooktown's Lions Club's fundraising work is featured on the QLD Change Makers series:

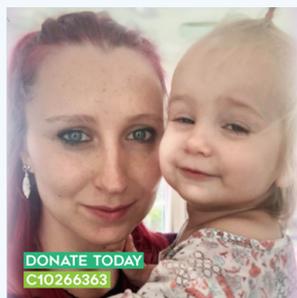
containersforchange.com.au/qld/change-makers

CASE STUDY

Local Fundraising

Auswaste Environmental Services have established a scheme account to raise funds for 15-month-old Helensvale resident, Ingrid, as she receives medical treatment for a brain tumour.

People can make donations at any Refund Point in Queensland, using the advertised unique scheme code.





Refund Points

-  A Refund Point is an authorised business that collects and sorts eligible containers returned by members of the public and pays them the refund amount.
-  Organisations operating authorised Refund Points generate income through handling fees, as high as 6.5 cents per eligible container collected.
-  Operating a Refund Point is much easier than most people think. Any charity, sporting club, community group or small business can operate one, particularly as there is significant assistance provided to operators, including point-of-sale software, marketing and branding, support and payment processing all free of charge.
-  Infrastructure to pick up collected containers from the Refund Points is also provided free.
-  Charities and sporting clubs that operate Refund Points can earn up to 16.5c per container if members of the public donate to them as the operator (10 cent donation plus 6.5 cent handling fee).

CASE STUDY

Sporting Club - Peel Thunder Football Club

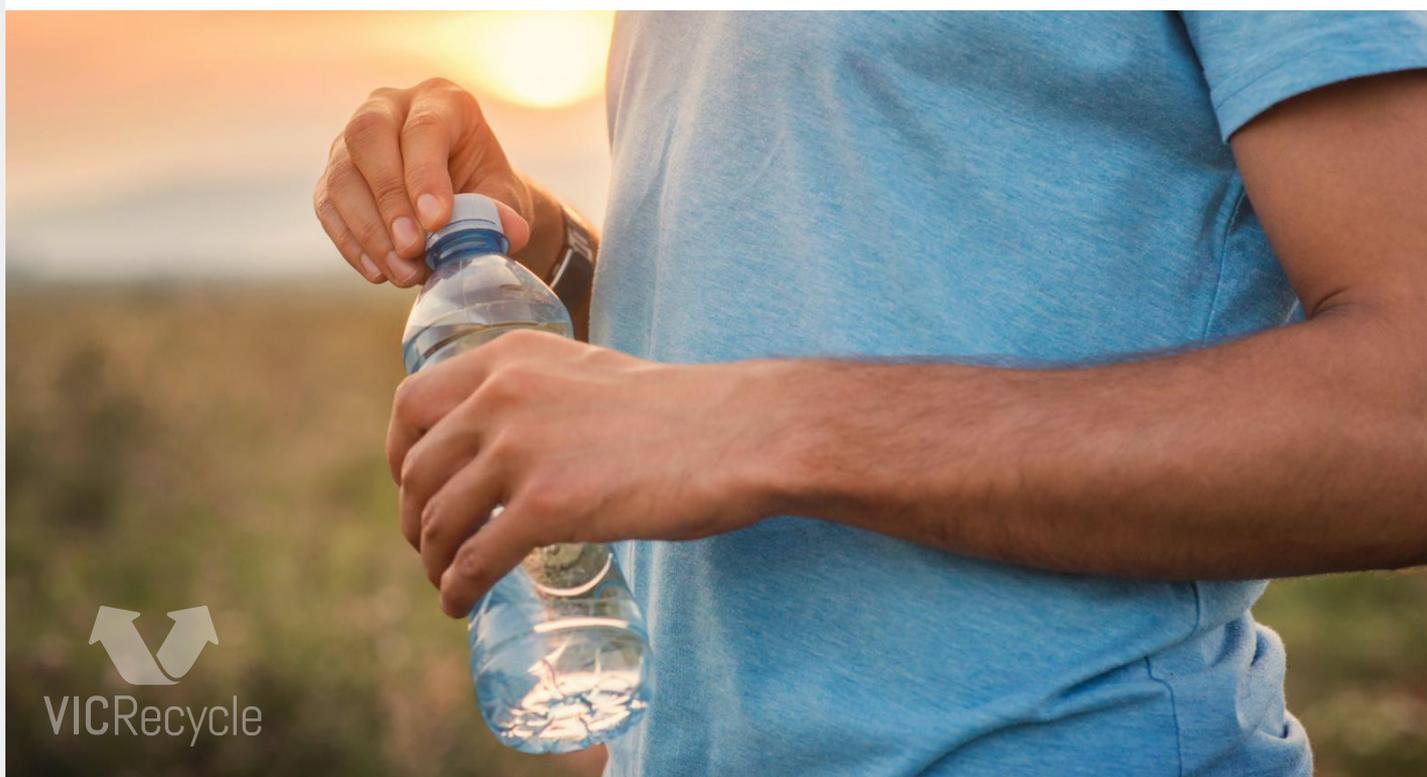
WAFL club Peel Thunder (aligned to the Fremantle Dockers) has set-up a social enterprise business, Community Recycling WA, to operate Refund Points under the state's Containers for Change scheme.

CRWA will operate multiple refund points across the Rockingham and Mandurah areas. The football club promotes to its members, players and their families to donate cans and containers to the club when they come for training or to matches on the weekend.

The Club will then collect 10 cents per container donated, with the additional handling fee per container going to CRWA. All CRWA profits will be reinvested back into the wider community through grants and sponsorship for things such as coaching and umpire development programs, talent development, sporting equipment and building upgrades.

Former Fremantle Dockers forward and Peel Thunder player Hayden Ballantyne said the benefits for the club will be enormous.

“The club is at the forefront of community engagement and this will further enhance its ability to protect the environment, create sustainable jobs and support grass roots sport in the community”.



Refund Points also present new revenue opportunities for small businesses. Many small business owners interstate have taken on additional employees and generated significant revenue by adding a Refund Point operation to a current business.

CASE STUDY

Local Employment - Jobs for Indigenous Young People

For Andrew Beckett, the benefits of operating as a Refund Point in Cherbourg and Kingaroy (QLD) are many.

While he gets a thrill out of seeing kids come to the Refund Point and say "Hey, I've got some cans here, I'm saving up for a bicycle!", he knows the changes in his community run much deeper.

Being able to employ around a dozen members of the Indigenous community and giving them the opportunity to be local role models has made a huge difference in their attitude and self-esteem.

Containers and bottles no longer lie on the community's streets and Andrew knows the importance of demonstrating the right thing to do to the next generation:

"We all have a connection to country so it's very important that we look after land, we protect land."

CASE STUDY

Small Business - Success Story

Former hairdresser Janelle Zordan decided to get involved in Queensland's Containers for Change scheme when it was launched in 2017.

She started a Refund Point depot with her two cousins, getting support with marketing and free point of sale software. Janelle's business was soon attracting 150-200 customers a day.

Janelle's business receives the 6.5 cent handling fee per container, while members of the public take away their 10 cent refund, or donate it to a local cause. She has expanded her business into two refund points and now employs 45 staff on the payroll.

More on Janelle's story is available here:

containersforchange.com.au/qld/change-makers

How can I get involved or find out more?

The Victorian Government is currently deciding what type of Container Deposit Scheme it adopts, including undertaking community consultation.

We need your help to make the case for a Community (Producer Responsibility) Scheme that ensures lower costs, provides accessibility and convenience for members of the public and delivers new commercial and fundraising opportunities for local communities, charities, clubs, pubs and other small businesses.

Write to us at VicRecycle to register your interest for more information at info@vicrecycle.com.au.