



# Feeding the homeless

## MELBOURNE AWARDS

### Nadia Salemm

HOMELESS Melburnians get a helping hand from Fitzroy-based food service SecondBite, a nominee in the 2008 Melbourne Awards.

The volunteer-run organisation sources fresh raw food from the city's markets and wholesalers, and distributes it to community groups, including the Sacred Heart Mission and St Mary's House of Welcome.

SecondBite executive director Katy Barfield said the service collected meat, fish, fruit, vegetables and deli goods from suppliers such as the Queen Victoria, Prahran and South Melbourne markets.

"We pick food up that's going to waste and transport it in refrigerated vans. We provide the raw ingredients but don't actually cook the meals," Ms Barfield said.

She said the Brunswick St organisation supplied 44 welfare agencies across the state and operated every day.

"People are hungry seven days a week, they're homeless seven days a week. There's a lot of need out there," Ms Barfield said.

"It (homelessness) seems to be growing".

In the past 12 months, SecondBite collected and distributed more than 100 tonnes of fresh produce and meat, providing the ingredients for more than

190,000 meals.

Ms Barfield said more than 312,000 families ran out of food in the state last year. "The most marginalised members of the community have got limited or no access to fresh food. We aim to change that," she said.

Ms Barfield said the St Vinnie's soup van in North Melbourne now served fresh soup, not instant, because it sourced vegies from SecondBite. The service, which started in 2005, operates under strict food safety guidelines and the state's Good Samaritan Act.

► For more info on SecondBite, see [www.secondbite.org](http://www.secondbite.org)



**AWARD CONTENDERS: (from left) Keryn Thomas, Russell Shields and Katy Barfield of SecondBite at the Queen Victoria Market.**

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## What are the awards about?

THE Melbourne Awards recognise individuals, community groups and corporations that make a contribution to the municipality of Melbourne.

The winners, selected by an independent panel of industry leaders and professionals, will be announced at an awards ceremony at the Melbourne Town Hall on Melbourne Day, August 30.

To nominate an individual or organisation, see [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards)

Nominations close May 16.