



Media release

Tuesday July 28

Schools to sign up to Wave of Change

Queensland's container refund scheme Containers for Change is giving fifty schools across the state free access to world class educational resources through a partnership with Plastic Oceans Australasia, an environmental global foundation based in Australia.

The groups' Wave of Change program was launched on Queensland's Sunshine Coast today by program ambassador actor Lincoln Lewis and is designed to educate primary and secondary students on the impact of plastics and the importance of recycling.

The schools that register will also be signing up to increase their recycling and fundraising efforts through the Containers for Change which provides 10 cent refunds for each eligible container returned through the scheme.

In launching the initiative, Lincoln Lewis said he was proud to be involved with a project that focussed on educating and empowering young people to take action to protect their environment.

"We all have to do what we can to look after our environment and reducing our use of plastics and increasing our recycling efforts are both things we can do at work, school and home to make a big difference," he said.

"The kids that get access to this program will be able to share their knowledge with friends and family to show how everyone can do their part to conserve our finite resources and reduce waste."

Up to 50 schools across the state will have the opportunity to register for the program and receive complimentary access to curriculum mapped classroom resources and lesson plans designed for students from Prep to Year 12.

Container Exchange is the not for profit that operates the Containers for Change scheme and CEO Ken Noye said the Wave of Change program had significant environmental and financial benefits for the schools who participate.

"The Containers for Change scheme has already had a big impact on reducing litter and increasing recycling and we are keen to also help more schools take advantage of the fundraising opportunities it provides," he said.

"We have seen more than 2 billion containers returned through our container refund point network so far and we want our schools to help us get to our next billion and raise funds in the process."

Executive Director of Plastic Oceans Australasia Ricki Hersburgh said the program was refreshing to part of.

“Right now, more than ever, organisations need to be collaborating to reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in our oceans. We are delighted to be partners with the Containers for Change scheme and hope that this incredibly important initiative supports long-term systemic change within our communities,” she said.

“Our educational resources will help young people understand the dire impacts of plastic on our environment, wildlife and human health,” Ms Hersburgh said.

“We have adapted the resources to expand on our recycling message, highlighting the ways we can use the Containers for Change scheme to ensure every eligible beverage container is recycled.”

Schools that register for the program will have free access to the resources over Term 3 and 4 of the Queensland school year and need to submit a visual record of their use of the material and their fundraising through the scheme.

The entries that show the most impact on their school environment via the program and the scheme will win an Oculus Quest virtual Reality Headset pack for their school. There are three packs to be won, one per student age group of Prep – Year 2, Years 3 – Year 6 and Years 7 – 12.

To register your school for the Wave of Change program email community@containersforchange.com.au or call 13 4242.

For more information about Plastic Oceans Australasia please contact info@plasticoceans.org.au

Ends

Media contact Samantha Nicholson 0406 743 339