

The Great Dolmio Cookoff aims for 5,000 meals for people in need on the NSW Central Coast

Sydney, October 2023

Dolmio, Sodexo, and Foodbank have announced a renewed partnership for the week-long Great Dolmio Cookoff. The event is set to draw attention to World Food Day on 16 October – a day to raise awareness of global hunger and encourage action - while helping those in the NSW Central Coast community.

Data from Foodbank reveals that on any day in Australia, over half a million households are struggling to put food on the table¹. In response, Dolmio, is transforming its Central Coast production facility's commercial R&D kitchen into a 'Master Chef-worthy' set for a meal-making marathon.

Over 100 members of the Dolmio team, along with staff from Sodexo, are volunteering their time. The team are aiming to make 1,000 meals a day, working three shifts a day throughout the week of 9-13 October.

Around 20 local charity partners within Foodbank Australia's network – including Coast Shelter – will be collecting the prepared meals and distributing them directly to people in need of food relief.

Bill Heague, General Manager Mars Food & Nutrition Australia, said that he knows the importance of helping to put food on tables.

General Manager Mars Food & Nutrition Australia, Bill Heague, said: “Our best loved brands like Dolmio have been helping Australian’s to make meals for over 75 years – based here on the Central Coast.”

“Dolmio is all about helping to inspire the small touches that can bring joy to our day-to-day lives. For many of us, that comes through the food we eat and who we eat it with – and that connection is something everyone should get to enjoy. However, sadly there are an increasing number of Australians, including in our own Central Coast, who are struggling with food insecurity. That’s why we are joining forces again with our generous partners to provide healthy cooked meals for people in need in our local community.”

Sodexo, an integrated facilities management services company with a base on the Central Coast, are providing support services and the key ingredients for the 5,000 meals.

Keith Weston, Sodexo Australia Managing Director, said the partnership builds on their global Stop Hunger initiative to address food insecurity and malnutrition.

Sodexo Australia Managing Director, Keith Weston, said: “Sodexo is proud to team up with Dolmio and our national charity partner, Foodbank Australia, to address the growing demand for food relief.”

“In Australia alone, 2 million households experienced severe food insecurity in the last year. With this figure set to rise with the increased cost of living and inflation on everyday household goods, it is important that we act today to deliver a better tomorrow for our communities².

“Our mission is to improve quality of life through our services, and we believe that quality of life only begins when basic needs are met. This annual event demonstrates tangible actions we can take to enhance the lives of our communities through collaboration and shared social responsibility.”

The teams are cooking balanced and delicious meals with fresh ingredients including Dolmio Bolognese, MasterFoods Honey BBQ chicken and MasterFoods Beef Stroganoff.

Brianna Casey, Foodbank Australia CEO, said the organisation has never seen such a high demand for food relief.

“We could not do what we do without the support of our generous donors like Mars Food Australia and Sodexo who continue to help us get meals to where it’s needed in many communities throughout the country.”

ENDS

About Sodexo Australia

Sodexo in Australia employs a diverse workforce of over 5,000 employees. Sodexo delivers a unique array of over 100 integrated services lines, including cleaning, catering, facilities management, aerodrome services, concierge, security, asset and building maintenance and hospitality services in the following segments: Corporate Strategic Accounts and Energy & Resources, both on and offshore.

About Sodexo

About Sodexo Founded in Marseille in 1966 by Pierre Bellon, Sodexo is the global leader in sustainable food and valued experiences at every moment in life: learn, work, heal and play.

Operating in 53 countries, our 422,000 employees serve 100 million consumers each day. The Sodexo Group stands out for its independence and its founding family shareholding, its responsible business model and its portfolio of activities including Food Services, Facilities Management Services and Employee Benefit Solutions. This diversified offer meets all the challenges of everyday life with a dual goal: to improve the quality of life of our employees and those we serve, and contribute to the economic, social and environmental progress in the communities where we operate. For Sodexo, growth and social commitment go hand in hand. Our purpose is to create a better everyday for everyone to build a better life for all.

Sodexo is included in the CAC Next 20, CAC 40 ESG, CAC SBT 1.5, FTSE 4 Good and DJSI indices.

Key Figures

- 21.1 billion euros in Fiscal 2022
- consolidated revenues
- 422,000 employees as at August 31, 2022
- #2 France-based private employer worldwide
- 53 countries
- 100 million consumers served daily
- 15 billion euros in market capitalization (as at June 29, 2023)

About Foodbank Australia

At Foodbank we believe everyone should have access to good food. We're here for the everyday Australians who are going without. We are working hard to change that.

In Australia we work with 2,625 frontline charities and 2,890 school breakfast programs to get over 82 million meals out to those who could use a hand.

For more information, please visit www.foodbank.org.au. For more information visit www.foodbank.org.au or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X (formerly Twitter).

About Mars Food & Nutrition Australia

Mars Food & Nutrition Australia has been creating healthy, easy, affordable and tasty meal solutions for Australians since 1967. Based on the NSW Central Coast at Wyong, Mars Food & Nutrition Australia manufactures more than 500 products ranging from mustards to flavoured sauces, marinades, ready to heat rice, recipe bases, herbs and spices, relishes and pasta sauce across its brands – Dolmio, MasterFoods, Ben's Original, Kantong and Promite. For more information visit www.mars.com. Join us on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube.

Contact

Elevate Communication

Madeline Jones
0403 877 300 | 07 3180 3666
madeline@elevatecom.com.au