



For immediate release  
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## **Foodcare Charmhaven to be better insulated thanks to Wallarah 2 grant**

The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation recently presented Global Care Australia with a donation of more than \$1,500 in support of its Foodcare Charmhaven project. The Foodcare Charmhaven initiative is committed to supporting some of Wyong's most vulnerable families by providing inexpensive groceries, free morning tea as well as a crèche and counselling service.

Foodcare Charmhaven is a local not-for-profit organisation now in its fifth year of operation. The service helps up to 50 families a week through the provision of food staples, fruit and vegetables as well as other essential grocery items. The facility is managed completely by volunteers, who help run the store and offer a friendly environment in which to build new connections and friendships.

Volunteer and Global Care Australia representative Vicki Fairman said, "This grant will help us install essential insulation so that we can keep the food fresh. Currently, the space can get extraordinarily hot, especially in summer, and we don't want this food to become waste rather than going to families in need in our local area.

"We rely heavily on the generosity of businesses like Wallarah 2 to continue to run this initiative for the benefit of the community and sadly we cannot see an end to the need for support such as ours.

"We have become a vital link in the community with DOCS, the San Remo Neighbourhood Centre, Centrelink and Share the Love all referring families to us. All families referred to us receive a donation of much needed groceries and we also provide support such as a crèche room where a preschool teacher reads and offers craft activities.

"We are absolutely committed to seeing families through the hard times and are honoured when others in the community that stand up to support our efforts, just the way Wallarah 2 has," said Vicki.

Peter Smith, Community and Environment Manager of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project said, "It's humbling to visit the volunteers at Foodcare Charmhaven to see first-hand their commitment to supporting those in the community less fortunate and doing it tough.

"Wallarrah 2 is proud to be able to assist in helping the group install something as simple as insulation that will enable them to maintain the quality of the food in the store and prevent excessive food waste," explained Peter.

The Foodcare Charmhaven project is run with thanks to the generosity of 17 volunteers and relies on donations and community support to keep its doors open. Coast Alive INC Church provides the premises for Foodcare and also absorbs the shortfall in finances from time to time.

The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation grant application process is now closed, with 14 grants presented to support organisations that benefit the Wyong local government area. For further information please visit [www.wallarrah.com.au](http://www.wallarrah.com.au).

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**For more information, interviews or photos:**

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**Photo: From left to right – front to back: Wallarah 2's Peter Smith, Foodcare Charmhaven volunteers Maureen O'Brien, Vicki Fairman, Judy Vittens, Jan Eden, Kerri Kelly, Christine Overden, Bob Dwyer, Chris Mason.**