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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**\$1000 RECYCLING PRIZES HELP QUEENSLAND FAMILIES IN NEED**

Flood-impacted families and low-income households struggling with the increasing cost of living have received welcome financial boosts while helping to save the environment.

Queensland's container refund scheme, Containers for Change, has given away more than \$125,000 in prize money as part of the Get Recycling Rich promotion.

Recyclers who return 50 or more drink containers at a time to a Container Refund Point are eligible to enter, with \$1000 awarded to a winner each day.

There were 128 winners to March 31 – and more than 43,000 entries – with thousands of dollars of cash still up for grabs before the promotion ends on May 31.

Brisbane resident and long-time recycler Rosealyn who won an instant \$1000 cash prize in March, said it had been a huge help after her family was impacted by the February floods.

The basement of Rosealyn's apartment complex went under in the catastrophic weather event.

"The money has made a big difference after the floods," she said, adding they were without power for weeks.

"It was a lovely surprise," she said.

Far North Queensland resident Kenneth said the money made a huge difference for cost-of-living and unexpected expenses.

"I'm a pensioner and I had to get my wife's car fixed, which cost me nearly \$2000."

After recycling his own containers, Kenneth started getting to know his neighbours and now does regular collections across two suburbs.

Lockyer Valley resident Chris said her instant prize lifted her spirits after flooding in the region and helped with her bills and rates.

"I had huge bills, including rego and rates to pay," she said.

"It was a big helping hand that's for sure. When I put in my entry it was 9.23 in the morning," she said.

"My mother's birthday is the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September and I said out loud to myself 'that's a lucky number'.

"When it came up with the \$1000 instant win and congratulations, I jumped for joy and squealed out loud."



**COEX** CONTAINER  
EXCHANGE

As well as the \$1000 daily prize, all entrants go into the draw to win the \$50,000 major prize to be drawn after the promotion closes.

Ken Noye, CEO of COEX the non-for-profit that runs the Containers for Change scheme, says the prizes from the Get Recycling Rich promotion are just one of the ways the scheme helps support Queensland communities.

"One of our refund points, Browns Plains Bottles and Cans, have raised \$3500 for the State Emergency Service so it's wonderful to see communities banding together after the devastation caused by severe weather across the state."

"We've also had wonderful stories of Get Recycling Rich winners donating their prizes to charities helping flood affected wildlife."

"Hundreds of Queensland charities and community groups have scheme IDs, so individuals can always choose the cause they'd like to donate their refunds to."

"It's such a wonderful opportunity for people to support local residents and causes while truly making a change" he said.

The Get Recycling Rich promotion runs until May 31 so there's still time to collect your empty drink containers, enter, and to start thinking about what you would spend the prize money on – you never know when you might Get Recycling Rich!

To enter, find answers to frequently asked questions, or read terms and conditions visit the [Get Recycling Rich website](#).

ENDS

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*Cleaning up our state since November 2018, **Containers for Change** aims to increase recycling rates and reduce litter by allowing Queenslanders to exchange eligible drink containers to either earn a 10 cent refund for each container returned, or donate the proceeds of those refunds to their nominated community group.*

*COEX is the non-profit organisation that implements the Containers for Change scheme.*