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NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK: OFFICEWORKS CALLS FOR AUSSIES TO BRING BACK OLD TECH

Officeworks is calling on customers to recycle their old tech gadgets this National Recycling Week as e-waste continues to grow, and valuable resources go unused.

E-waste is currently one of the world's fastest growing waste streams and Australia is fifth in the world for e-waste production, with 23kg per person, equivalent to more than 120 iPhones, reported in 2019 (Global E-waste monitor, 2019).

To help combat this issue, Officeworks gives customers' old technology and stationery new life, with a free, easy and secure recycling program, Bring it Back. The program allows customers to drop off their old smartphones, printers and print cartridges, batteries, pens and markers to be recycled.

Officeworks Managing Director Sarah Hunter said, "We know Australians want to do the right thing with their old technology, but many are confused about how, and where, to dispose of their old equipment. Since 2015 we've had our in store Bring it Back recycling program so customers can recycle their home and office technology responsibly."

"While working from home during the pandemic, many of us needed to purchase new, or upgrade old technology to meet the demands of remote working. National Recycling Week is a great chance to dig through the drawers, find that old phone, pens or batteries and do the right thing and recycle them."

During the pandemic, [26 per cent of Australians](#) purchased a new tech device as a result of spending more time at home, to keep connected with friends and family, entertained and productive while at home. National Recycling Week is the perfect opportunity to dispose of any outdated or unwanted technology and stationery products that we have sitting at home.

In the past financial year, Officeworks customers have recycled more than 1,500 tonnes of e-waste and stationery, with over 5,600 tonnes recycled and the materials reused, including for products such as park benches, electrical components and other new products since the program commenced in 2015.

As part of this recycling initiative, Officeworks' partnership with Planet Ark's Cartridges 4 Planet Ark has seen more than ten million cartridges recycled through the in-store program.

Recognising the risk of e-waste being incorrectly recycled, Officeworks is committed to supply chain transparency with initiatives such as GPS tracking.

The Bring it Back program partners with organisations such as Planet Ark, Mobile Muster and TechCollect to ensure products are recycled appropriately from end-to-end.

Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management Trevor Evans said: "It's great to see one of Australia's leading suppliers of stationery, technology and office supplies tackling the issue of e-waste and providing a free and easy solution for their customers and the wider community. E-waste is an important challenge that our government is seeking to address given \$680 million worth of e-waste materials were sent to landfill in 2019. We commend

Officeworks for its initiative through the Bring it Back campaign, and encourage all Australians to take their old equipment to their local Officeworks store around the nation to recycle and support National Recycling Week.”

Visit an Officeworks store this National Recycling Week to recycle smartphones, batteries, printers & cartridges, pens & markers, computers & laptops and DVDs. Bring it Back recycling is free and convenient, with units located at 140 Officeworks stores across Australia.

To find out more about the Bring it Back program please visit:

<https://www.officeworks.com.au/information/about-us/sustainability/environment/recycling>

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Media enquiries

Alt/Shift

Jacob Schnackenberg

jacob@altshift.com.au

0449 573 386

About Officeworks

Established 26 years ago in Richmond, Victoria, Officeworks is committed to making bigger things happen for its customers, team, the community and stakeholders. It operates 167 stores across Australia, a website that is home to more than 40,000 products, a national call centre, and a business team that helps micro, small and medium-sized businesses start, run and grow. Officeworks offers customers a wide range of office supplies, technology, furniture, art supplies, education resources and helpful services like print & copy and on-site tech support through Geeks2U – delivering an experience that is easy and engaging, no matter how customers choose to shop. Officeworks is focused on the safety, wellbeing and career progression of the 8,000 team members it employs. It’s also dedicated to operating in a sustainable manner, including building and maintaining meaningful connections with the communities in which it operates, fundraising for its national partners and local community groups, continuing to reduce its impact on the environment and source responsibly.