



AGL to keep Queensland's homeless Warm in Winter

28 May 2007

AGL Energy (AGL) is inviting organisations that provide emergency short-term crisis accommodation for Queensland's homeless to apply for energy rebates towards electricity and gas bills this winter, as part of an initiative called Warmth in Winter.

The program, which has been successfully operating in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia for the past three years, will help to fund the winter gas and electricity bills for overnight emergency accommodation facilities in Queensland.

The program also conducts energy audits to help facilities achieve ongoing, year-round energy savings. In addition, specially trained AGL employees will provide energy efficiency education workshops for welfare staff and clients as part of the AGL volunteering program.

According to AGL Queensland's General Manager, Jim Galvin, the Warmth in Winter initiative is just one aspect of AGL's Energy for Life community program which is committed to encouraging energy efficiency across the community, with a special emphasis on supporting and assisting vulnerable Australians.

"We understand that operating costs for emergency accommodation facilities can be higher in winter, so this program helps to ease the burden for those who provide an essential service for Queensland's homeless," Mr Galvin said.

"To date, the program has supported more than 300 emergency accommodation services across New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, the equivalent of 380,000 warm winter nights for homeless Australians. "We are pleased to be able to bring the program to Queensland this year and we encourage all interested parties to apply as soon as possible."

The program's success can be measured not only by the savings emergency accommodations facilities experience during the winter months, but also the year round savings derived from the AGL energy audits which includes the installation of energy efficient appliances, light sensors and window shadings.

Savings recorded last year from the smallest of the audited facilities was around \$500-\$800 per annum, while the largest facility saved around \$8,000 off its total annual energy bill. The 2006 energy audits also resulted in savings of approximately 149.8 tonnes of CO2 emissions, equivalent to taking 35 cars off the road in a year.

To be eligible for participation, applicants must:

- Be a registered Queensland overnight emergency or crisis accommodation service for people experiencing homelessness
- Have Deductible Gift Recipient status as a registered charity with the Australian Tax Office
- Provide copies of the service's energy bills for any three consecutive months in 2006 – 2007, taking into consideration that in some cases the highest energy consumption in Queensland can be in other months.
- The program is open to all emergency/crisis accommodation services, regardless of whether they are AGL customers or not.

AGL, in conjunction with peak homeless organisations, will assess each application and select eligible organisations. As the program grows and applications increase, a preference will be given to smaller organisations which tend to receive less financial support.

Applications for the Warmth in Winter program close on Wednesday 6 June, 2007. For more information, organisations should visit www.agl.com.au/energyforlife.

For more information please contact:

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About AGL

AGL is Australasia's leading integrated energy company. Drawing on 170 years of experience, it includes retail and merchant energy businesses, power generation assets and an upstream gas portfolio. AGL has Australia's largest retail energy and dual fuel customer base supplying around 4.1 million customer accounts. This includes customers supplied with gas and electricity through AGL's joint venture partnerships, ActewAGL and AlintaAGL. AGL has a diverse power generation portfolio including base, peaking and intermediate generation plants, spread across traditional thermal generation as well as renewable sources including hydro, wind, solar, landfill gas and biomass. As Australia's largest listed renewable energy producer, AGL is looking to further expand this position by exploring a suite of low emission and renewable energy generation development opportunities.