

Diabetes Victoria and Savers Australia celebrate 20 year partnership

27 September 2017: Diabetes Victoria and Savers Australia are celebrating 20 years of a vibrant partnership that has directly benefitted Victorians affected by diabetes. The partnership is stronger than ever due to the successful implementation of several new business processes in recent years.

“As a not-for-profit organisation, we pride ourselves on our ability to generate untied and non-government income to support our programs and services, and to fund vital diabetes research projects,” says Diabetes Victoria’s CEO Craig Bennett. “In the last five years, almost \$7 million has been raised through Diabetes Victoria’s collection business partnership with Savers.”

This partnership commenced in 1997, when Savers opened their first shop in Brunswick – modelled on the parent company’s established partnership with Diabetes Canada.

“Without anything like it in Australia, Diabetes Victoria thought it would be a great idea and spent time formulating a plan to engage Savers in discussions about a market entry in Melbourne,” says Savers Australia Managing Director Michael Fisher. “We opened five stores within two years and this required real commitment from both partners. Neither organisation wavered in that commitment.”

Recyclable items donated to Diabetes Victoria are sorted, priced and transported to the six Savers stores in Melbourne for sale to the public.

Partnership facts:

- Over the past 20 years, an estimated 60 million items have been recycled through this business model.
- There are environmental benefits of reduced landfill.
- Diabetes Victoria’s collection business employs 15 people and deploys 11 vehicles that make up to 300 separate pickups per day.
- Currently about 150,000 Victorian donate items to the collection business at least twice a year.

*We **support, empower and campaign for** all Victorians affected by diabetes.*

For more information:

Jane Kneebone 0416 148 845 jkneebone@diabetesvic.org.au
Sybille Taylor 0408 102 344 staylor@diabetesvic.org.au