

# Media Release

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## Foster care agency reduces waste to give children a brighter future



Staff support for corporate sustainability goals have paid off for MacKillop Family Services and its commitment to children.

This week—National Recycling Week—staff were pleased to learn that, together over 12 months, they had **diverted 35 tonnes (41%) of their waste from landfill.**

“We are proud of our people for their day-to-day choices across the various properties we operate,” says Phil Kalidoudis, MacKillop’s Procurement and Sustainability Manager. “Through sustainable practices we can leave a healthier environment for young people everywhere.”

MacKillop created its [Sustainability Strategy](#) guided by the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals as well as by the papal encyclical, *Laudato si’*. “This strategy was built with input from our employees, young people and foster carers,” says Mr. Kalidoudis. “Then, over the past year, we have worked on getting everyone on board and working towards a common goal.”

- The Melbourne office kicked things off with desktop miniboxes replacing personal waste bins. This encouraged staff to think about what they threw, and to physically take their recyclables and general rubbish to the appropriate bins.
- Common areas in MacKillop properties have clearly identified waste bins for recycling, organics and general rubbish.
- Electronic devices and empty toner cartridges are disposed of responsibly, and staff are encouraged to reduce hard copy printing. Where there is print waste, it is collected for paper recycling.



National Recycling Week encourages Australians to 'Join the Cycle' - taking waste and recycling into their own hands by building better recycling habits.

MacKillop Administration Officer, Jill Sawyer (above), is happy to play her part. On her own initiative she set up a small bin in her workplace for spent single-use batteries. "That's my contribution to the environmental effort, to help those unsure of what can go into a recycling bin."

Encouraged by this huge reduction in waste to landfill, MacKillop continues to look for new ways to work more sustainably and create a better environment for everyone.

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[MacKillop Family Services](#) is a leading provider of services for children, young people and their families. We work across NSW, VIC and WA.