

TASK FORCE FIGHTS ENERGY AND WATER WASTAGE IN YARRA

Wednesday 25 November 2009

Vito Palmisano is one of the first residents in Yarra to book a visit from the Energy and Water Task Force who installed a range of products that will keep the house cooler in summer and warmer in winter, help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and most importantly, save money on energy and water bills.

The Task Force is available completely free of charge to households in Yarra that have a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession card.

It is coordinated by Sustainability Victoria and since 2003 the program has assisted over 6,000 households across Victoria to cut their energy bills. Supported by both Yarra and Darebin Councils the services are delivered by Australian owned environmental company Low Energy Supplies and Services (LESS).

Vito is a retired bus driver who has been living in the North Carlton area for just over 40 years and says he found out about the Task Force after his wife saw a flier at the neighbourhood community centre.

"We decided to take up the offer as we have a big house with so many light fittings that sometimes, when they're turned on the house looks like the Sydney Harbour Bridge," said Vito.

"I thought the Task Force offer might help lower our energy bill and since they've been we're actually using a quarter of the power that we were before.

"The house also has a corridor that runs from the front door out to the back and the draughts run straight through there so we get a lot of dirt in the house and cold air in the winter.

"The Task Force draught proofed the whole house with door strips in just about every room and they're coming back to fit blinds in the family room, kitchen and lounge.

"I've noticed a big difference in the house thanks to the Task Force - they were really pleasant, cooperative and helpful and suggested everything they could have possibly done to improve the house, including installing adjustable vents over the existing vents on the side of the house.

"I would certainly recommend the service to others and I have done so to at least half a dozen of my friends, including the other members of the Italian Pensioners Group who is having a visit from the Task Force this week," said Vito.

The Energy and Water Task Force service is **AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE**. A trained and police checked team can assess the energy and water efficiency of a

home, and where required install:

- Energy-saving light bulbs
- Low-flow shower roses
- Brush and rubber door strips along bottom of doors
- Weather sealing around doors and windows
- Adjustable wall vents over existing non-adjustable wall vents
- 'Draft stoppas' over kitchen and bathroom ceiling vents
- Blinds and pelmets in living area (maximum 3 of each per household)
- Ceiling insulation over living area
- Lagging (insulation) over external hot water pipes
- Replacement tap washers

To be eligible for the Energy and Water Task Force project, you must:

- Hold a current Pensioner Concession Card or Centrelink Health Care Card
- Live within the City of Yarra or southern suburbs of the City of Darebin (Northcote, Westgarth, Fairfield, Alphington and Thornbury)

Owner occupiers and tenants in both private and public housing are eligible to participate in the project.

To book a free installation of energy and water saving products, please contact Low Energy Supplies & Services on 1300 882 412

For media comment contact Peta Cooper, 0425 294 490