

## **CHEFS URGED TO PUT THE CHICKEN BEFORE THE EGG**

RSPCA (Victoria) is calling on restaurants, cafes and their customers to join Choose Wisely, a new scheme that aims to get Australia's hens out of cages, one by one.

RSPCA Chief Executive Officer Maria Mercurio said it takes the purchase of just six cage-free eggs per week to make a difference to one hen.

“Choose Wisely is a positive scheme that demonstrates that every egg you buy or serve really can make a difference, whether you're eating out or in.

“Choose Wisely asks businesses to commit to using cage-free eggs at a Gold, Silver or Bronze level, depending on whether they use them in all or some of their products.

“It's a big commitment so Choose Wisely also asks consumers to support those restaurants and cafes that take this step. They will be easy to find, just look out for the Choose Wisely logo on their window or visit [www.choosewisely.org.au](http://www.choosewisely.org.au).”

The RSPCA today welcomed the first three businesses to join Choose Wisely – Crowne Plaza Canberra, National Convention Centre Canberra (NCC) and Parliament House Catering by InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG).

Together these businesses will replace 200,000 eggs a year with RSPCA accredited cage-free eggs to become a silver member of Choose Wisely.

“We use a lot of eggs across our three venues and are in an excellent position to set an example for other organisations in our industry,” said Executive Chef, Ian McInnes.

“Using cage-free eggs is vital not only for the health of the animal, but for the quality of food we take from it and in my opinion they taste better.”

The RSPCA is also encouraging those cafes and restaurants already using cage-free eggs to sign up to Choose Wisely.

“Your customers and community should know about the commitment you've made to animal welfare and be able to make informed decisions when they dine out,” Ms Mercurio said.

“You can enjoy eggs and still care for the welfare of the hens. There are alternative systems that are more humane and provide hens with the freedom to move and express their natural behaviours.”

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