

Media Release

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Comic Relief banking on ANZ

The nation's funniest not for profit organisation, Comic Relief Australia, and ANZ are calling on all Australians to 'bag themselves some laughs' to help provide important assistance to disadvantaged members of the community.

COMIC RELIEF AUSTRALIA, which shares its objectives with the UK's high profile aid organisation, raises funds to provide important assistance to socially and economically disadvantaged people. ANZ as Comic Relief Foundation Partner is encouraging purchases of Comic Relief merchandise to support the charity's vital work both domestically and overseas.

The partnership between ANZ and Comic Relief Australia began in 2005, and thanks to the generous support of the Australian public, the organisation has raised in excess of \$900 000. This is currently being distributed to 31 community and charitable groups in Australia, and helping to support vital projects in Indonesia, Cambodia, India, Kenya and East Timor.

ANZ Group Managing Director, Mr Brian Hartzler, recognises Comic Relief's ability to make a tangible and constructive impact on the lives of many of the most disadvantaged people in the world.

"ANZ is delighted to be working with Comic Relief to build stronger, healthier and more sustainable communities in and around the Asia-Pacific region. We applaud their bold and courageous approach, long-term vision, and support for the most vulnerable in society," Mr Hartzler said.

"Our staff have a great commitment to their communities and welcomed raising awareness and funds for Comic Relief through our branches in November, and via our Call Centres in Melbourne tonight.

"ANZ is committed to providing opportunities for our staff to support causes that are important to them by offering paid volunteer leave, matching staff donations and providing funding for local teams to support local initiatives.

"Our focus is on developing and supporting innovative programs, with clear aims and real outcomes that make a lasting difference to people's lives," Mr Hartzler said.

Funds generated for Comic Relief will be spent on a fifty-fifty ratio between Australia and overseas. The annual Comic Relief television event features a host of Australian and international comedians and celebrities and will air on the Seven Network tonight.

Donations to Comic Relief Australia can be made at any ANZ branch and official merchandise is also available for purchase. For more information visit www.comicrelief.org.au or www.anz.com

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