

21 December 2016

iSelect donates \$15,000 to keep the homeless connected this Christmas

1000 Ask Izzy portable power cards for vulnerable Australians

[iSelect](#), Australia's leading destination for insurance, utilities and personal finance, has donated \$15,000 to [Ask Izzy](#), a mobile website that connects Australians that are homeless or at risk of homelessness with essential services such as shelter, food, clothing and health care.

iSelect's donation will provide 1000 homeless Australians with a \$15 Ask Izzy portable power card which provides four hours back-up battery charge for a mobile phone. Four hours of power can be enough to find a meal, blanket or even a bed for the night.

"iSelect helps Australians take care of their 'life admin', the boring but important tasks like switching energy providers, refinancing your home loan or taking out life insurance," iSelect CEO Scott Wilson explained.

"But we understand that for some of the most vulnerable members of our community their 'life admin' is a lot more basic – things we don't think twice about like finding somewhere to sleep or where to get a meal."

Scott said iSelect decided to get involved with Ask Izzy after realising the positive impact technology could have on those experiencing homelessness.

"Most of the iSelect team are in their 20s and 30s, and like most young Australians they rely on their mobile phone for everything from keeping in touch with friends to doing their Christmas shopping," Scott said.

"I asked our team to think about how they would struggle to live without their smart phone. It's something we take for granted but for many homeless Australians, their mobile phone is their lifeline."

One in 200 Australians today are either homeless or at risk of homelessness and almost 80 per cent of people experiencing homelessness have a smart phone.

"A smartphone keeps those experiencing homelessness connected to essential services such as shelter, food and healthcare," Scott said.

"But if you haven't got a home to go to, keeping your smartphone charged can be yet another challenge."

Ask Izzy was developed by not-for-profit social enterprise Infoxchange in partnership with Google, realestate.com.au and News Corp Australia. Ask Izzy was co-designed with people who have experienced homelessness and leaders in the homelessness sector.

"iSelect's generous contribution to Ask Izzy will make the world of difference for 1000 people across Australia who are homeless. Their phone is their lifeline and now they can charge it wherever they are to find food, healthcare, shelter, or another service they may need," David Spriggs, CEO of Infoxchange, says.

Scott announced the donation at the iSelect Christmas Party last week, challenging the company's more than 600 Melbourne-based staff to get behind the cause.

"The iSelect team has enjoyed a great year and while the festive season is a time to celebrate, it's also really important to give back to those less fortunate."

In addition to the 1000 power cards iSelect has donated, Wilson is encouraging both iSelect's staff and customers to get behind Ask Izzy.

"I'm calling on all iSelect's staff and customers to embrace the Christmas spirit and make their own personal donation by buying an Ask Izzy power card or better yet, buy a few!"

To make a donation to Ask Izzy visit: <https://donation.giveeasy.org/infoxchange/ask-izzy>

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About iSelect

At iSelect, we get that most people find insurance, utilities and personal finance boring. But we understand that it's really important to always get these things right. As Australia's life admin store, iSelect gives customers the confidence to make the right call on some of the things that matter most.

Last year, more than 9 million Australians visited our website and we provided recommendations to over 6 million customers. But we are much more than just another online comparison website. Our highly-trained experts at iSelect HQ help customers to choose and buy from thousands of available policies, products and plans. And we provide our advice at no cost to the customer.

We compare and sell some of Australia's biggest brands but are proud that, unlike other comparison sites, we are not owned by an insurance company. From health and life insurance through to energy and broadband, as well as car insurance and home loans, iSelect helps Australians take care of the boring but important stuff. www.iselect.com.au