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Media alert

Attention: Radio and TV producers

Skip Dipping Wellbeing from Waste

The latest Australia Institute report looks at the phenomenon of 'skip dipping' in which educated professional people, most of whom are relatively financially secure, scavenge from commercial and industrial waste bins.

'Skip dipping' is the Australian version of a growing global movement known in Europe and North America as 'urban gleaning'.

The Institute study of the phenomenon, *Skip Dipping in Australia*, by Dr Emma Rush featured in *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* this weekend.

Dr Rush examines the experiences and motives of Australian skip dippers. Motives include making a political point about the massive amounts of commercial and construction industry waste discarded each year.

"But skip dippers also share a delight in finding treasure in the 'trash' found in supermarket and construction industry skips," Dr Rush said.

Goods collected by skip dippers include: honey, pasta sauce, eggs, all sorts of fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products, bread, biscuits, muffins, doughnuts, cheesecakes, confectionery, deli products, nuts, rice, herbs and spices, pet food, wine and beer, shampoo and conditioner, body scrub, baby oil, baby wipes, tissues, soap, clothing, crockery, cut flowers, toys, books, laundry powder, light bulbs, furniture, and a wide range of building and gardening materials.

The report interviews skip dippers from around Australia and includes a review of urban gleaning internationally.

For comment, please contact Dr Emma Rush, Research Fellow, The Australia Institute on **02 6125 1272 (bh)** or **0437 967 356**.

The Australia Institute is a public-interest think tank based in Canberra.

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