

Parents urged to try cloth nappies

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AN estimated 2.1 billion disposable nappies are buried in landfill each year in Australia — enough to fill the MCG seven times.

For many new parents the convenience of disposable nappies is hard to overlook, but a new scheme by KESAB is aiming to highlight the benefits and ease of using cloth nappies to help the environment.

Thanks to a grant from Zero Waste SA, KESAB has partnered with community group Eco-Bums to provide South Australian parents with subsidised access to a cloth nappy 'library' so they can try before they buy.

"This is a great incentive for parents to try cloth nappies to see if it suits them and their baby," KESAB special environmental projects coordinator Grace Barila said.

"The project gives parents access to the Eco-Bums cloth nappy library at a subsidised rate, providing them with a pack of cloth nappies to trial over a two-week period.

"The environmental and financial benefits are significant."

South Australia has a goal to divert 75 per cent of all waste material away from

landfill, and removing disposable nappies from the waste stream would contribute about six per cent to this target.

"Cloth nappies have come a long way since terry towelling squares, with modern versions more absorbent, less bulky

and easy to wash," Ms Barila said.

"They are now just as easy to use as disposables and more fashionable!"

Yorke town mother Amanda Beal switched to using cloth nappies on her two sons, aged 23 months and 4

months, recently and said she wouldn't go back to using disposables.

"We were spending about \$200 per month on disposable nappies and they were just going in the bin, so I thought I would give cloth nappies a try," Miss Beal said.

"I've found cloth nappies hold a lot more wee and have resulted in less nappy rash for the boys.

"A lot of parents worry about the extra work it makes, but really it's just one extra load of washing a day, then you pop them out in the sun

and it does the rest.

"It's better than having a bin full of smelly nappies, and it is saving us a lot of money, so I wouldn't go back."

For more information about the Eco-Bums subsidy scheme, visit www.ecobum-sclothnappies.com.

■ CLOTH BABY... Yorke town mother Amanda Beal has started using cloth nappies on her son Coda, 4 months, and loves the bright and colourful designs available.

