



FIGHTING HUNGER  
IN AUSTRALIA

# FEDERAL ELECTION 2019

## FUNDING & POLICY PRIORITIES

### FOOD RELIEF PARTNERSHIPS WITH IMPACT



Foodbank is Australia's largest hunger relief organisation, distributing food and groceries to over 2,600 charities and 2,000 schools. Last year Foodbank sourced over 42.8 million kilograms of food and groceries - that's the equivalent of over 210,000 meals a day. Foodbank accounts for 74% of all the food received by charities from food rescue organisations.

Foodbank works with the entire Australian food and grocery industry including farmers, wholesalers, manufacturers and retailers. Donations include stock that's out of specification, close to expiry or excess to requirements as well as proactive donations of in-demand items. Foodbank also works closely with corporate Australia to secure much needed funds and expertise to support its food relief efforts.

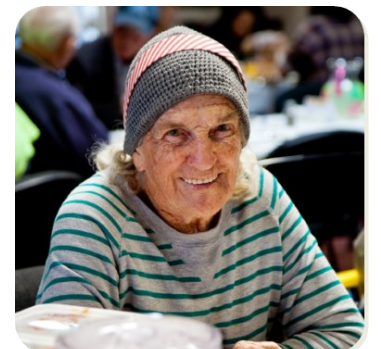
In addition, Foodbank collaborates with suppliers, manufacturers and transporters in a world-leading program to source key staple foods - such as fresh produce and daily essentials - that don't come in sufficient quantities via rescue channels. This ensures reliable availability of foods that provide variety, convenience, nutritional value and cultural appropriateness. In particular, it secures foods for families, people with special health and dietary needs and school children via school breakfast programs.



## FOOD SECURITY IS...

**'Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The four pillars of food security are availability, access, utilisation and stability.'**

\*FAO Committee on World Food Security



Foodbank Australia Limited  
ABN: 58 073 579 254  
11 Julius Avenue, North Ryde NSW 2113  
T: 02 9887 4144  
E: [admin@foodbank.org.au](mailto:admin@foodbank.org.au)  
W: [foodbank.org.au](http://foodbank.org.au)

To arrange a briefing, contact:  
**Brianna Casey**  
CEO, Foodbank Australia Limited  
M: 0439 723 401  
E: [brianna@foodbank.org.au](mailto:brianna@foodbank.org.au)  
@briannacasey1 @Brianna Casey





## IS SEEKING COMMITMENTS FROM ALL AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL PARTIES FOR THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES:

### EVERYDAY FOOD ESSENTIALS

#### The Issue:

It is vital for charities providing food relief to have access to a reliable and cost effective supply of high-demand daily essentials e.g. milk, rice, pasta, cereal, tinned fruits and vegetables. Sufficient volumes of these key staple foods do not come from traditional rescue channels, however, because their supply chains are extremely efficient with little waste, owing to long shelf lives, lack of new product launches or promotions and predictability of demand.



#### The Ask:

Foodbank seeks a commitment of \$7 million per annum to enable us to source an appropriate level of daily essentials which, when combined with rescued foods, would bridge the food provision gap. Foodbank has established a Key Staples Program through strong working relationships with over 30 Australian food manufacturers and suppliers. This program include purchasing foods at wholesale or preferential prices as well as working with food companies and their suppliers - including farmers - to manufacture the items needed at little or no cost.

#### The Impact:

Through the Key Staples Program, Foodbank is able to procure \$5 worth of food (retail value) for every \$1, so a \$7 million investment would result in \$35 million worth of essential supplies for food relief charities. This would enable Foodbank to maintain key staple foods (rescued and procured) above 70% of the overall volume ensuring stock that provides variety, convenience, nutritional value and cultural appropriateness to food insecure Australians right across the country. In particular, it would secure appropriate foods for families, people with dietary and health concerns and school children via school breakfast programs.

### FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY

#### The Issue:

The [Foodbank Hunger Report 2018](#) reveals that last year 4 million Australians, or 18% of the population, experienced food insecurity. Of these, three quarters (76%) were categorised as having very low food security, which means they eat less food than they need because they lack the means to obtain it. Foodbank estimates that 75 million kilograms of food relief is required each year to meet the full needs of those seeking food relief. Currently, national food rescue organisations (Foodbank and our sector peers) provide 53 million kilograms combined, leaving a gap of at least 25 million kilograms to ensure those reaching out are assisted. This does not include the people who suffer in silence.



#### The Ask:

Foodbank is seeking a long term, bi-partisan, whole-of-government food security strategy. The aim of this strategy, to be led by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, would be to underpin the efforts of the public, private and non-profit sectors in addressing the current food security crisis and meet the food relief needs of vulnerable Australians.

#### The Impact:

A cooperative approach by the public, private and non-profit sectors would deliver a food relief system that is more efficient and effective, and most importantly, would ensure disadvantaged Australians have access to essential support when it is needed most. The development of a national food security strategy presents a unique opportunity to align and inspire a variety of stakeholders to deliver benefits to vulnerable communities as well as Australian society as a whole. For more details, please refer to [The Case for a National Food Security Strategy](#).

### FRESH FOOD ESSENTIALS

#### The Issue:

Fresh fruit and vegetables are nutritionally valuable and two of the most sought after categories of food by charities providing food relief to the public. They also have the highest level of waste in the supply chain - estimated at more than half of what is produced. Foodbank is currently capturing only a small proportion of the surplus mainly due to the prohibitive cost of transportation from the growing regions where they are available to the areas where they are needed for food relief.



#### The Ask:

Foodbank seeks a commitment of \$6.5 million per annum in transport funding, enabling it to source an additional 8.2 million kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables - enough to meet the future needs of food relief charities nationally to provide for every Australian seeking food relief. At the same time, this volume would be prevented from becoming waste. Foodbank works closely with the farm sector and peak agricultural bodies at both the national and local level to capture as much fresh produce as possible. With funding for transportation, Foodbank would be capable of immediately increasing the volume of product being redirected to meet the fresh produce needs of the food relief sector thus preventing it from being ploughed back in or going to landfill.

#### The Impact:

Transport support would enable Foodbank to increase fruit and vegetables to 40% of total food volume (currently 34%), in line with the recommendations in the National Dietary Guidelines on optimal consumption of fruit and vegetables for health. Achieving this would lead to a more balanced supply to food relief charities, resulting in improvements in the offering to people in need.