



**FIGHTING HUNGER  
IN AUSTRALIA**



## Food insecurity is...

**When individuals or households have "limited or uncertain physical, social or economic access to sufficient, safe, nutritious and culturally relevant food"\*.**

\*FAO Committee on World Food Security

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# FOOD RELIEF FUNDING & POLICY PRIORITIES

## PARTNERSHIP WITH IMPACT

Foodbank is Australia's largest hunger relief organisation, distributing food and groceries to over 2,400 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 everyday and fresh essentials - eg produce and key staples such as breakfast cereal, rice and pasta - 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 dietary needs and school children.



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# Bridging the food relief gap to assist vulnerable Australian individuals and families

## LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

### The Issue

The [Foodbank Hunger Report 2018](#) reveals that last year 4 million Australians, or 18% of the population, experienced food insecurity. Foodbank estimates that 50% more food is required to meet the full needs of those seeking food relief. International experience indicates that the single most effective strategy for increasing donations of surplus and waste food is introducing federal tax benefits related food donations. The current tax framework in Australia does not adequately motivate businesses to donate their surplus to food relief. In fact, the current tax consideration for donating food is no better than for dumping it and there is no benefit for donating services essential to these donations such as transport and storage.



### The Ask

Foodbank seeks tax incentives, whether in the form of credits or deductions, to induce farms, manufacturers and retailers to make the behavioural and operational changes needed to donate additional food instead of dumping it (see PWC briefing: ['Enhanced deduction for charitable contributions of food inventory modified and retroactively made permanent'](#)). Also Foodbank seeks new tax mechanisms to incentivise donations of essential operational services. e.g. transport, pallet hire, storage and refrigeration (see Macquarie University Law's [Enhancing the Australian Tax Framework to Facilitate Donations of Services](#)).

### The Impact

US policy advocates have found that every \$1.97 in tax deduction yields 1 kilogram of food or 2 meals for food relief (retail value \$6). On this basis, \$15.4 million in tax incentives would generate an additional 7.8 million kilograms of food for food relief.

## EVERYDAY 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 including nutritional sound and culturally appropriate foods e.g. milk, rice, pasta, cereal, tinned fruits and vegetables. Sufficient volumes of these 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 Everyday Essentials 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 Everyday Essentials 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 or 9 million kilograms 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 needs and school children via school breakfast programs.

## 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 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 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.