



Foodbank NSW & ACT Annual Review FY22–23



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As an organisation that exists to fight hunger in Australia, we see firsthand the impact the rising cost of living is having on our communities. Last year, 3.7 million households went hungry in Australia, and over 1.2 million of those households were from NSW and ACT communities. That's an increase of more than 10% on the previous year.

In that time, we've seen demand for food increase by as much as 40%. **Thankfully, with generous support from the community, we have made significant progress across our key mission areas, stepping up to the plate to feed more Aussies in need.**

At Foodbank NSW & ACT, the biggest challenges we face in meeting increasing demand are distance, stigma and food waste.

Last year, we continued to grow our daily operations, sourcing and providing groceries to our vast and growing network of Community Partners.

We recognise that there is still a stigma associated with accessing food support, despite our services being more widely available than ever before. By working closely with our community partners, we make sure that families doing it tough can access the food and groceries they need without compromising their dignity.

Finally, as the largest and most trusted food relief organisation in the state and territory, we recognise the important role we play in reducing food waste. By doing so, we ensure that more meals reach the tables of hungry families.

It is our incredible volunteers, donors and Community Partners who make all this possible. Thanks to you, we can deliver vital food to more families no matter who they are, where they live, or what they need.

John Robertson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
FOODBANK NSW & ACT





BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT



710

Community Partners

received food to distribute to families in need across NSW and the ACT.



20 million+

Meals

were provided through our Community Partner network.



617

Schools

were supported through our School Breakfast 4 Health program.



100,000

Kilograms

of fresh fruit, vegetables, bread and produce were distributed through our Pop-up program.



47,921

Hampers

weighing 630,000 kgs were distributed to families in need throughout the year.

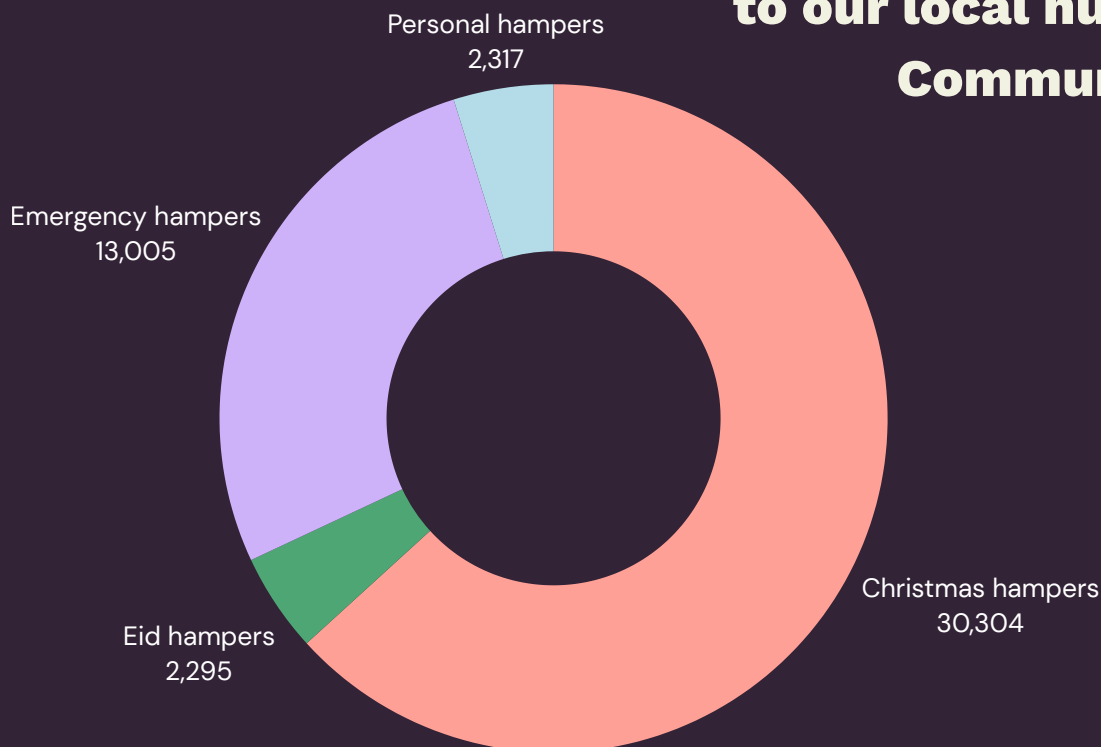
[Home](#)[Supporting our community](#)[Our volunteers](#)[Reducing waste](#)[DONATE](#)A circular image showing a woman with dark hair holding a baby. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple circle.

**No matter
who you are**

**We're supporting
our community
in need no matter
who you are**

At Foodbank NSW & ACT, we are committed to supporting our community in need across the state and territory, no matter who you are or what you need. We believe everyone deserves access to quality, nutritious food and last year, we worked tirelessly to make that a reality for more people in our communities.

**Last year we distributed
4 different types of hampers
to our local hunger-fighting
Community Partners.**



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Hampers in FY22-23



Emergency hampers

13,005

filled with pantry staples like pasta, tuna, soup, baked beans, coffee and tea.



Christmas hampers

30,304

filled with festive treats and pantry staples like ham, custard, fruit cake, pasta, rice, coffee and tea.



Personal hampers

2,317

filled with personal care items including shampoo, toilet paper, soap and a toothbrush and toothpaste.



Eid hampers

2,295

filled with a variety of foods commonly enjoyed during Eid including cashews, dates, lentils, baklava and olives.

Thanks to you, we are providing more than just food to our communities

While the majority of what we provide to our Community Partners is food, last year we distributed more than 725,000 kgs of non-food items including personal care items, pet food, baby care items and more to make sure families doing it tough have what they need.

[Home](#)[Supporting our community](#)[Our volunteers](#)[Reducing waste](#)[DONATE](#)A circular photograph of a smiling woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a white patterned cardigan over a dark top. She is holding two clear plastic containers filled with colorful vegetables. In the background, a Food Bank truck is visible with text that reads "PEOPLE FEED PEOPLE EVERY DAY?", "FIGHTING HUNGER IN AUSTRALIA", and "GET UP! STAND UP! SHOW UP!".

**No matter
where you are**

**We're supporting
our community in
need no matter
where you live**

Last year we partnered with 710 Community Partners located across NSW and the ACT to get food relief to those doing it tough. Our partners can choose from more than 500 products each week, to make sure their local families have access to the food and groceries they need.

We're so grateful to work with these wonderful community partners, all committed to fighting hunger.

Food insecurity is affecting families across NSW & the ACT, from major cities to regional and remote towns

That's why last year, we continued to build upon our programs that help get much-needed food to far-reaching corners of our state and territory.

We travelled over

4,455,675
kilometres

picking up and distributing food and grocery items to families in need across NSW and the ACT.

That's more than

5 trips
**to the moon and
back!**

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Popping up where we're needed most

Throughout the year, our teams collaborate with our network of Community Partners to identify areas in significant need, particularly where fresh produce is less accessible.



This is all part of our Fresh produce

Pop-up program

supporting people in need with free food and groceries at a community location convenient to them.



We then work directly with Sydney Markets to purchase additional fresh fruit and vegetables, which is loaded onto our trucks and is on the road and at locations, generally within 24 hours.



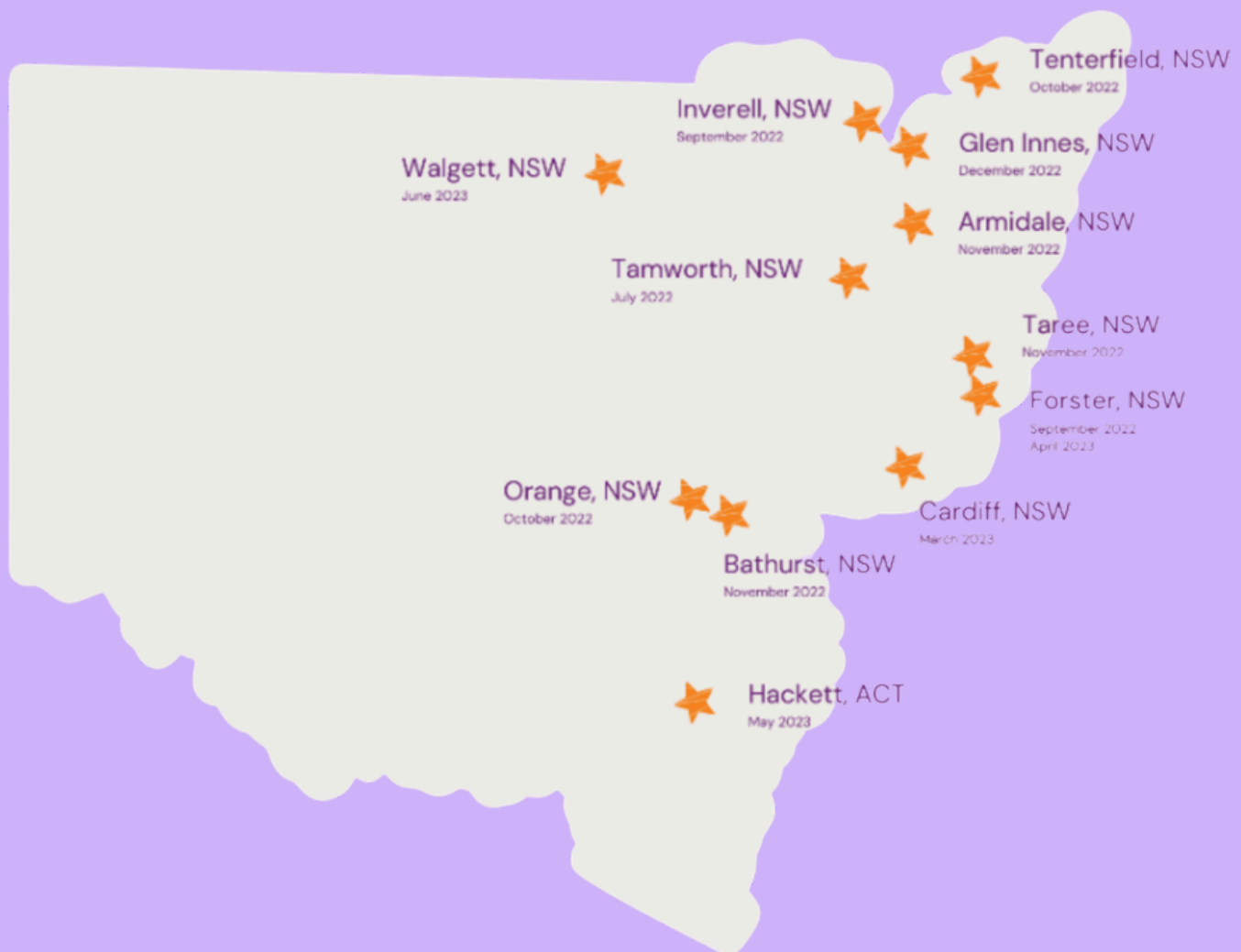
Thanks to you and our Community Partners, we hosted 13 Pop-ups last year, providing a total of

100,000 kilograms

of fresh fruit and vegetables, bread and other grocery staples for free to community members in need.

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Where we hosted Pop-ups last year



The cost-of-living crisis is impacting more and more people. For those living in regional towns, getting access to quality food at an affordable price can be an enormous challenge.

Last year, we secured funding that enables us to grow our School Breakfast 4 Health program

We had **617 schools** participating in our **School Breakfast 4 Health** program, providing students with regular nutritious breakfasts. This increased attendance and improved learning and health outcomes.



“

Many children at our school don't have access to breakfast at home, they don't get milk or cereal. Almost all of our 240 students come along to the breakfast club every morning and the need is only increasing. We're grateful to Foodbank for providing that relief for the students and their families.

Marisa

COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER
EMERTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

”



“

Here in Moree, people have only got a few options for groceries. Affordable supermarkets are 100km away, so if you can't afford the nearby supermarket prices – which are getting more and more expensive – you absolutely rely on the pantry. People come to us for their basics to help make ends meet.

Casey Ryan

FOODBANK COMMUNITY PARTNER
LIFEHOUSE CARE PANTRY MOREE

”

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our team of volunteers continue to be the key ingredient in providing food support to families in need. From sorting and labelling items to stocking shelves and packing food orders and hampers. This year our volunteers continued to step up to the plate, generously giving their time to help us get food to people who need it most.



“

I am very pleased to see many of our individual volunteers continuing into long-term volunteering. At the same time, we have been able to welcome many new volunteers. Together, they add up to a diverse, skilled, and committed group that helps make our operation work every day. It's also been great to see corporate volunteering bounce back. Our engagement with corporate partners is stronger than ever and we have been able to include corporate teams in a range of roles in our distribution centre.

Luke Chesworth

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

”



Milardy

Recently joined our volunteering team to give back to her community in retirement.

“

I've learned so many things in my short time here. I'm amazed at the scale of our impact and the generosity of our donors. There's such a positive energy in the warehouse. It's an honour to help those in need.

”

Milardy Lardines

FOODBANK NSW & ACT VOLUNTEER



Michael

Has been a volunteer at Foodbank NSW & ACT for four years, giving over 2,500 hours his time to fight hunger.

“

I really enjoy meeting our Community Partners, learning about what they do and where the food is going. What I love most is the friendships I've made and seeing the impact of our work in the community.

”

Michael Farrogia

FOODBANK NSW & ACT VOLUNTEER

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Last year, we had a total of

135

individual volunteers

195

corporate volunteer teams

who together, contributed 10,142 days of support in our Western Sydney warehouse, sorting and packing food for distribution to our Community Partners.

30

of our

individual volunteers

gave more than 50 days each of their time to support families doing it tough.

A total of

851

corporate & individual volunteers

joined us over 52 days to pack 30,000 Christmas hampers in 2022.

Our individual volunteers returned a

97%

engagement score

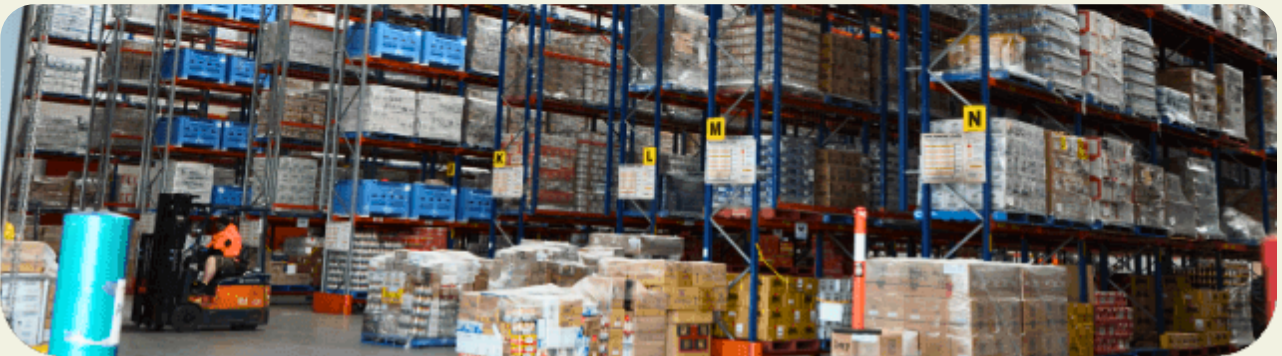
gave more than in the 2022 Volunteer Survey.

REDUCING WASTE

Last year's Hunger Report highlighted what we at Foodbank NSW & ACT see every day – the cost of living crisis means that more and more people in our communities struggle to put food on the table.

In the last year, 1.2 million households experienced food insecurity across the state and territory. That's over a third of all NSW and the ACT households and 105,000 more than in 2022.

The sad reality is that there is enough food in Australia to feed everyone, but so much of it is wasted along the food journey. There are many reasons for this, from strict industry size and shape standards for produce, to spoilage from unsuitable packaging. The problem is that more food waste means less food on the tables of hungry families.



That's why we're committed to working with the Australian food and grocery industry to source perfectly edible foods that otherwise would have gone to landfill.

At Foodbank NSW & ACT, we have the warehouse facilities and expertise to collect this food and make it available every day to our network of more than 700 Community Partners.

Rescuing food is a key part of our daily operation. Every day we receive food that would otherwise have gone to landfill and instead, we make this available to families in need.



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As the largest and most trusted food relief charity in the state and territory, we also recognise the important role we play in reducing our own waste.

We do this by



Working with our donors to reduce or eliminate donations of fresh produce with plastic packaging. This can cause fruit and vegetables to spoil faster making it less suitable for transportation.



Repurposing organic waste to use as compost for farmers and gardeners and turning the resulting biogas into renewable energy.



Optimising our warehouse processes to make sure we can efficiently process and dispatch food every day.



Recruiting team members who have expertise in warehouse and produce management. This means higher quality fruit and vegetables getting to people who need it most.



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Waste is an inevitable part of managing a largely donation-based food relief warehouse.

Thanks to our improved processes, in the last four years, we have reduced our waste by almost half to less than **3%**

Every day we're continuously working to build more sustainable operations; ultimately getting more food and groceries to our community doing it tough across NSW and the ACT.

**Thank you to our volunteers,
donors and partners.**

We couldn't do it without you.

Supporting our community no matter who you are