



Foodbank Queensland Impact Report



Financial Year 2024

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We are Queensland's largest hunger relief charity, feeding Queenslanders in need every day.



Our Vision

A Queensland without hunger



Our Purpose

To provide the most food to the most Queenslanders in need in the most efficient and effective ways



Our Values

Respect
Collaboration
Compassion
Trust
Responsibility

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters where we work. We recognise and respect their continued custodianship, culture and Elders.

Our Patron



Her Excellency the Honourable
Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM
Governor of Queensland

Our Board Of Directors



Mike Hill
Chair
Appointed Apr 2016



Natasha Olsson-Seeto
Deputy Chair
Appointed Feb 2018



Rhyll Gardner
Director
Appointed Jun 2019



Linda Miller
Director
Appointed Oct 2021



David Muir
Director
Appointed Jan 1995



Chris Dougherty
Director
Appointed Feb 2024



Ian Mitchell
Director
Appointed Mar 2018



Anthony Joseph
Director
Appointed May 2023



Jon Saunders
Director
Appointed May 2023



Mark Reinke
Director
Mar 2018 to Nov 2023

Chair Report

“This year has been another significant year for Foodbank Queensland.”

Having reached capacity at our current Food Distribution Centre, the Board made a key decision to lease a second facility, due to open in 2025. This new Food Distribution Centre is more than twice the size of the current facility, ensuring that we can procure and rescue more food. This will significantly increase our ability to support Queenslanders suffering from food insecurity across the state. The establishment of a second Food Distribution Centre has additional benefits, including improved access for our Member Organisations, a greater range of food and groceries, and improved safety. The entry into the four year-lease was supported financially by the Queensland Government who have also funded upgrades to our existing Food Distribution Centre with the expansion of the chiller area. We are very grateful for the Queensland Government’s support.

In the last 12 months, Foodbank Queensland has also made important progress in supporting Queenslanders in regional areas. During the year, we employed our first regionally based employee in Townsville and obtained funding from the Queensland Government to assist in supplying additional food to that area. We are now looking to establish a greater footprint in Northern Queensland from which to provide our services. Separately, throughout the year, we have begun

providing food for school breakfasts to an additional 14 schools in remote areas including the Torres Strait Islands, through a partnership with Community Enterprises Queensland. This year Foodbank Queensland continued to collaborate with other food relief organisations in Queensland, including SecondBite, FareShare and OzHarvest. Together, we issued joint submissions to the Government for greater assistance to the food relief sector, and for the appointment of a Minister for Food. This year has also seen Foodbank Queensland commence strategic disaster preparedness work, proudly supported by Amazon.

As always, we are extremely grateful to our wonderful farmers and supporters from the food sector that provide us with the fresh and packed food that is so essential to Queenslanders during this cost-of-living crisis. We look forward to their continued support over the next 12 months.

Thank you to all the hardworking staff and volunteers, as well as all our generous supporters – you continue to be the heart and soul of Foodbank Queensland.



Mike Hill
Chair
Foodbank Queensland

Letter from the CEO

“Together, we’re expanding our reach and deepening our impact to ensure no Queenslander faces hunger.”

What an amazing year Foodbank Queensland has had! This financial year 23–24, Foodbank Queensland provided over 13 million kilograms of food and groceries to Queenslanders experiencing food insecurity, working in collaboration with over 350 Member Organisations and nearly 400 School Breakfast Programs. We couldn’t achieve these results without the support of our amazing food and financial donors, partners, and support from the Queensland Government.

To ensure our programs and engagements are community led, and evidence-based, Foodbank Queensland established an Impact and Engagement team. This team are working with communities to ensure more food and groceries are provided to regional and remote Queensland, and to understand community food insecurity issues and barriers. Ultimately, Foodbank Queensland is seeking to work with communities and sector peers, supporting place-based responses and driving system change, to achieve food equity, and to achieve our vision of a Queensland without hunger.

This year we continued to work closely with our food relief sector partners, and value the collaboration we have. Unfortunately, the need in Queensland still far outweighs what collectively we can provide. We know there is more work

to be done, as our Members continue to see an increase in people accessing their services, and more organisations seek to become Foodbank Queensland Members to receive food support for their communities. Our Food Distribution Centre, which opened more than 20 years ago, has now reached capacity. We simply cannot increase our provision of food relief and support more Members and Queenslanders in need until we have more space. We are pleased to report that with Queensland Government support, Foodbank Queensland has signed a lease on an additional facility that will increase our capacity to accept more food to provide it to those in need. We hope to open this facility in early 2025.

We could not do the work we do without our dedicated staff and volunteers. I am privileged to work with some of the most passionate and dedicated people and every day I am impressed by the work they do. I look forward to seeing what this next year brings.




Jess Watkinson
Chief Executive Officer
Foodbank Queensland



Our Impact

In partnership with charities, schools, Member Organisations and caring supporters like you, Foodbank Queensland helped provide over 26 million meals to Queenslanders facing hunger this year.



13.8M MEALS
Food Rescue Program



10.3M MEALS
Farm to Families Program



1.4M MEALS
Food Purchasing Program



740,000 MEALS
School Breakfast Program



191,000 MEALS
Food for Kids Program

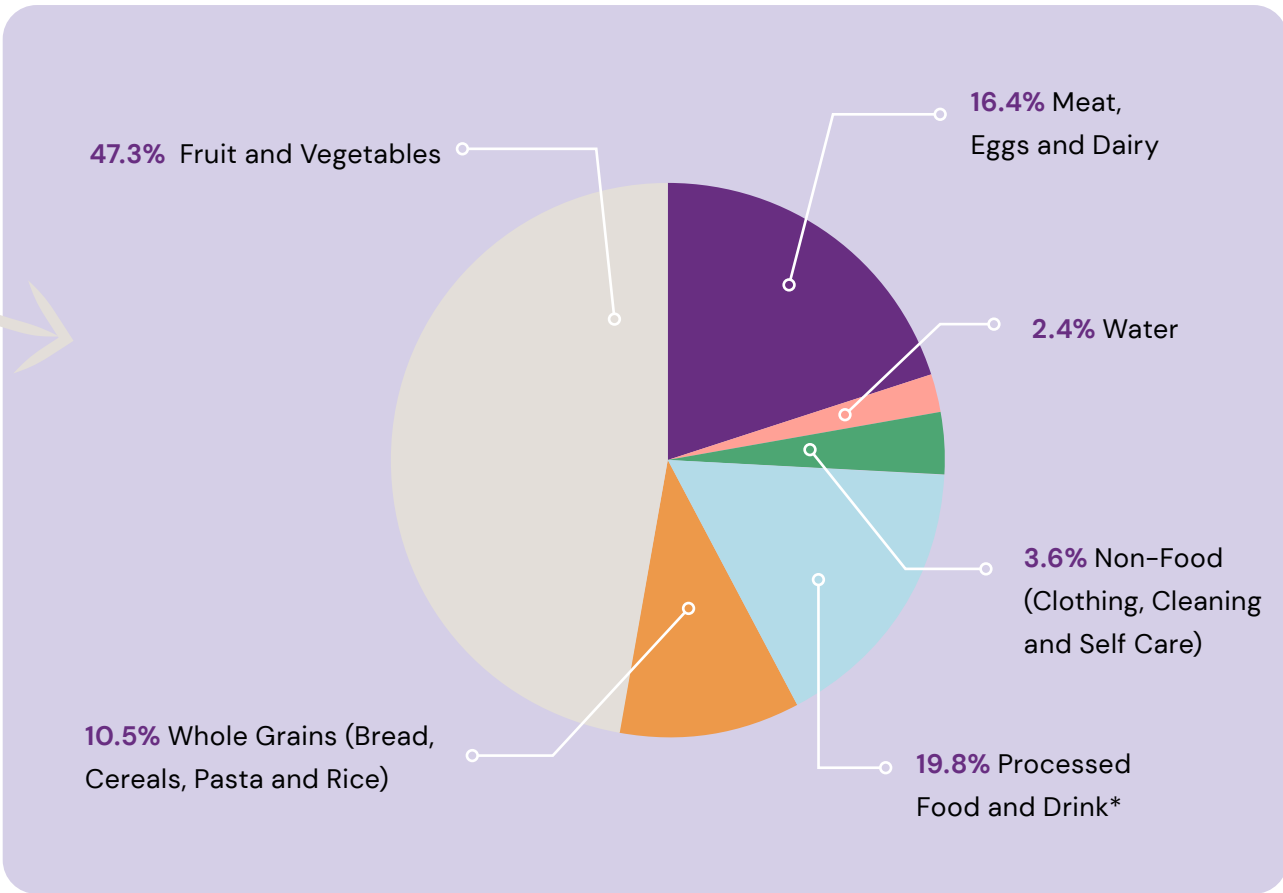


Nutrition in Food Relief

Foodbank Queensland recognises the importance of nutrition as part of overall wellbeing. We are committed to providing fresh, nourishing food and groceries to our Members across the state.

By providing more fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, protein, breads, and cereals, we are helping to meet the overwhelming demand for these nutritious foods. This focus on nutrition ensures that the food we distribute not only fills stomachs but also supports overall health, development, and wellbeing.

Our Members' feedback is invaluable and assisted us in better understanding the needs of their communities. This continues to guide us to better meet the needs of those we collectively serve. Together, we are making a profound impact, ensuring everyone has access to foods that help them thrive.



*Please note processed foods include staple foods such as recipe bases, baking and cooking supplies, biscuits, bakery items, snacks, frozen meals, confectionery, desserts, shelf-stable meals, dressings, condiments, spreads, sugar, tea, coffee, and drinks.

Our Programs

At Foodbank Queensland we believe everyone should have access to food. Our five programs, Farm to Families, Food Rescue, School Breakfast, Food for Kids and Food Purchasing, have been designed to help bridge that gap, providing essential meals to those who need it most.



The **School Breakfast Program** gives hungry children a healthy breakfast to start their day. With a full stomach, children can focus better and concentrate at school, which improves learning outcomes and their physical and mental health.

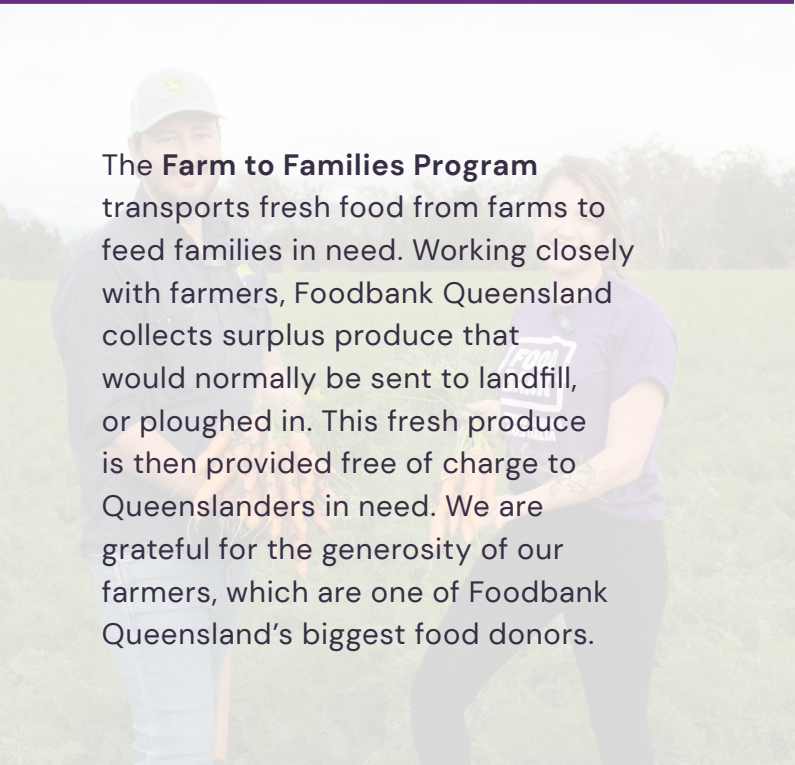
School Breakfast Program

-  **740,000 Meals Created**
-  **397 School Programs**
-  **\$2.3 MILLION Food Value Donated**

Farm to Families Program

-  **10.3 MILLION Meals Created**
-  **64 FARMS Donated**
-  **\$33 MILLION Food Value Donated**

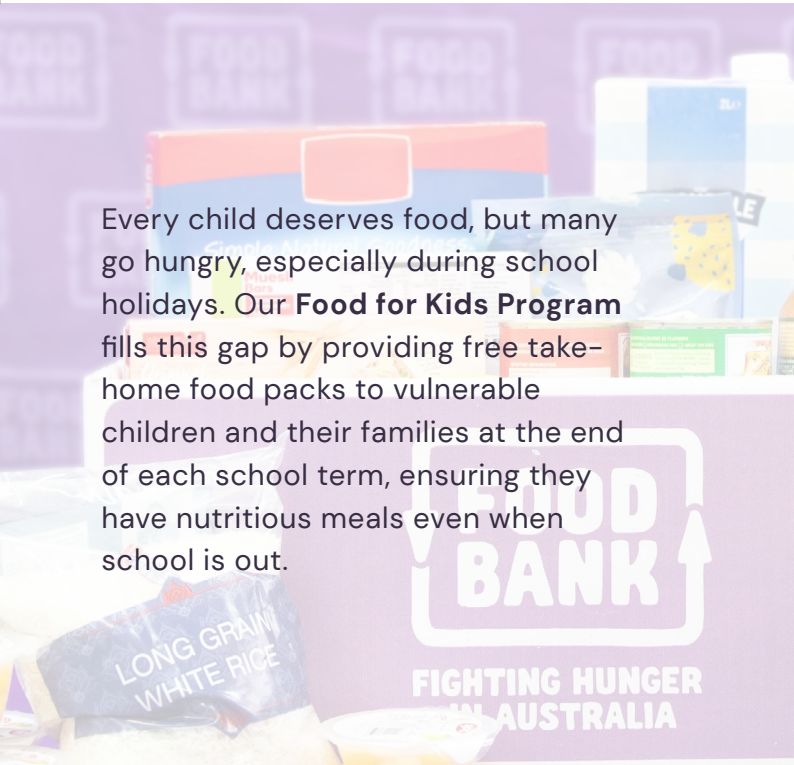
The **Farm to Families Program** transports fresh food from farms to feed families in need. Working closely with farmers, Foodbank Queensland collects surplus produce that would normally be sent to landfill, or ploughed in. This fresh produce is then provided free of charge to Queenslanders in need. We are grateful for the generosity of our farmers, which are one of Foodbank Queensland’s biggest food donors.



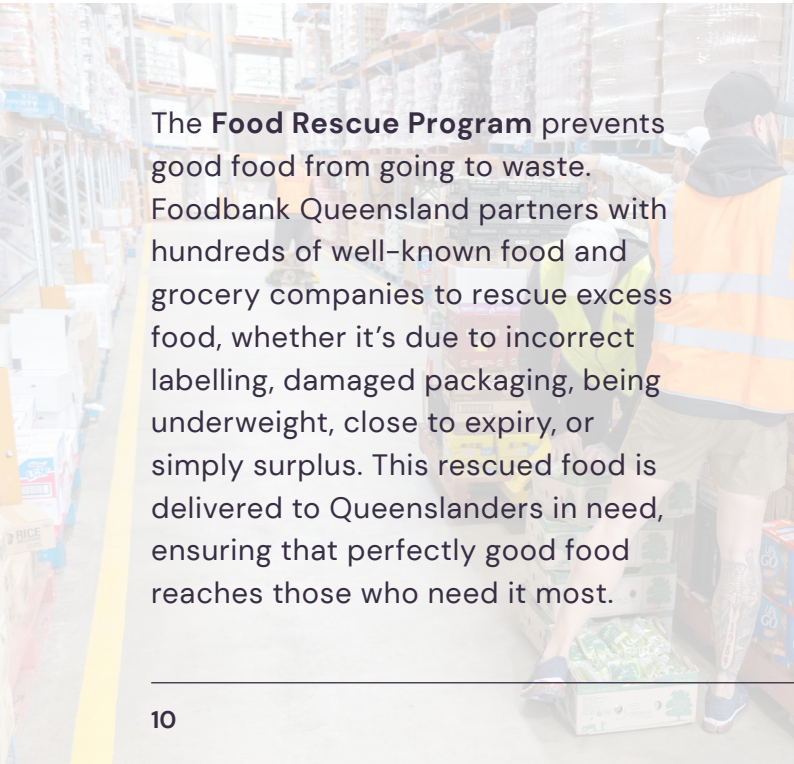
Food for Kids Program

-  **191,000 Meals Created**
-  **11,500 Hampers Packed**
-  **\$618,000 Food Value Sourced**

Every child deserves food, but many go hungry, especially during school holidays. Our **Food for Kids Program** fills this gap by providing free take-home food packs to vulnerable children and their families at the end of each school term, ensuring they have nutritious meals even when school is out.



The **Food Rescue Program** prevents good food from going to waste. Foodbank Queensland partners with hundreds of well-known food and grocery companies to rescue excess food, whether it’s due to incorrect labelling, damaged packaging, being underweight, close to expiry, or simply surplus. This rescued food is delivered to Queenslanders in need, ensuring that perfectly good food reaches those who need it most.



Food Rescue Program

-  **13.8 MILLION Meals Created**
-  **339 PRODUCERS Donated**
-  **\$44 MILLION Food Value Donated**

Our **Food Purchasing Program** allows us to purchase the most in-demand food for Queenslanders facing hunger include pasta, rice, UHT milk, and canned vegetables. Foodbank Queensland doesn’t receive enough donations to meet the demand. To ensure these essential items reach those in need, we rely on the generosity of our philanthropic supporters to purchase these products, making a critical difference in feeding Queensland families.



Food Purchasing Program

-  **1.4 MILLION Meals Created**
-  **61 High Demand Products**
-  **\$4.6 MILLION Food Value Sourced**



Your Support in Numbers

2 million

kilolitres worth of water was saved through our food rescue efforts, enough to fill 870 Olympic swimming pools



11,500

Food for Kids hampers were packed and distributed



\$315 million

Social Return on Investment



\$33 million

worth of fresh fruit and vegetables rescued from Queensland farms



26 million

meals were provided to Queenslanders in need



397

School Breakfast Programs were supported



\$4.4 million

was raised to create more meals



150,000

Queenslanders were supported every week



93%

of food sourced was rescued from going to waste



366

Member Organisations distributed food to communities in need



135

volunteers worked over 12,000 hours to sort food donations, saving over \$400,000 in potential wages



49,900

children were supported weekly through the School Breakfast Program



How your generous donations were invested in FY24

For every \$1 invested we raised almost \$4!

Sourcing immediate food relief for Queenslanders

30 cents

Directly supports Foodbank Queensland's Food Rescue Program which prevents good food from going to waste and delivers it to Queenslanders in need.

16 cents

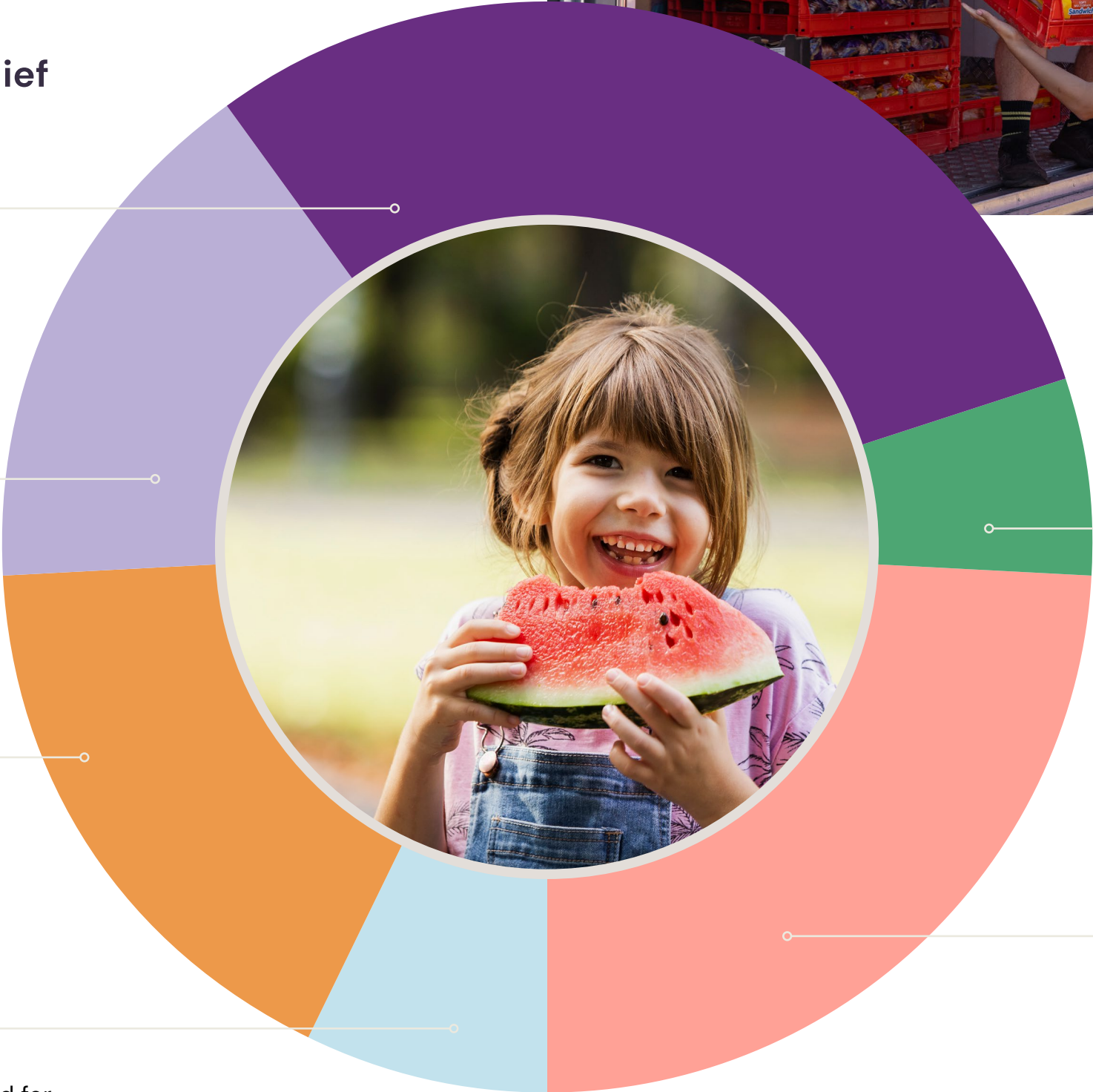
Directly supports Foodbank Queensland's Farm to Families Program which transports fresh food from farms to feed families facing food insecurity.

17 cents

Directly supports Foodbank Queensland's School Breakfast Program which gives hungry children a healthy start to their day.

7 cents

Directly supports Foodbank Queensland's Food for Kids Program which ensures vulnerable children and their families have nutritious meals.



Investing in the future of food relief in Queensland

6 cents

Directly supports Foodbank Queensland's Disaster Preparedness plan, ensuring Foodbank can respond quickly, supporting our communities, when disasters strike.

Making sure we do things the right way

24 cents

Covers essential direct costs of fundraising, ensuring we raise the most funds to support Queenslanders experiencing hunger.



Speaking to Our Impact

“

“Support from Foodbank Queensland is more than just the provision of milk, Weetbix and tinned fruit, it also supports School Chappies to support students’ wellbeing at school. Thank you, Foodbank Queensland, for your awesome contribution to our school Brekky Club.”
– Chaplain Nicole, Woongarra State School.

“

“Without this support in my time of crisis I probably would have had to go back to my ex . I don’t even know if I’d be alive. I felt like nothing then suddenly, I had the support of some food. It’s changed my life and the next steps I’ll take. My independence is back.” – Emily*, domestic violence survivor

“

“We certainly can’t work without Foodbank. The support that Foodbank gives us as far as logistical support is huge. It’s invaluable. Otherwise, it would mean that over 385,000 tonnes of produce last year would’ve been in surplus for farmers.”

– James,
FareShare
Production
Manager

“

“There isn’t a big enough word to say how much the food relief helps. Thank you for the support, thank you for thinking of other people and putting your kindness into action. Just... thank you.” – Jemma*, single mum of three school aged children

“

“We wouldn’t be able to do what we do without Foodbank. We get so much from Foodbank, it’s our main supplier. We love Foodbank.” – Brigita, Assistant Manager of ADRA Logan Community Centre

“

“We have been seeing the results and thanks to Foodbank Queensland seeing where the food was going to. From our perspective it is a good gesture, because at some stage everyone needs a hand.” – Trevor Cross, Cross Family Farms

“

“Shopping is a struggle for me since been diagnosed with cancer last year. Receiving this from my son’s school was very much appreciated.” – Jill*, Food for Kids hamper recipient

*Jemma, Emily and Jill are real Queenslanders; their names have been changed for privacy.

Working Together to Create Impact

Foodbank Queensland partners with over 350 Member Organisations and 397 schools across Queensland to provide vital food relief to communities in need.



Member Spotlight

Working with Citicoast Pantry to support the Bundaberg community

Foodbank Queensland is deeply grateful for the incredible work of our Members across the state, whose dedication makes it possible to provide vital food relief to thousands of Queenslanders. Among these committed Members is The Citicoast Pantry in Bundaberg, a not-for-profit initiative of Citicoast Church and Global Care.

Born from the 2011 floods that devastated Bundaberg, it's now a permanent source of support for the community, offering low-cost groceries and household supplies with no barriers to entry.

The Pantry now serves over 100 people daily, a number that continues to rise as cost-of-living pressures mount. Charissa, the Pantry Manager observes, *“Many families, especially those with school-aged children, are facing significant challenges due to a lack of support.”*

The Pantry also supports Foodbank Queensland’s School Breakfast Program, collecting and distributing essentials like cereal, tinned fruit, and

UHT milk to schools across Bundaberg. This ensures that students start their day with a nutritious meal, setting them up for success.

Foodbank Queensland’s partnership with The Citicoast Pantry extends beyond food relief. As housing insecurity and rental crises affect more Queenslanders, the Pantry’s work becomes even more critical.

Charissa shares, *“We see the tears of relief when people realise they can access affordable food. Without donations to Foodbank, many would have nothing on their tables.”*

Without Members like The Citicoast Pantry, Foodbank Queensland could not reach as many Queenslanders in need. We are profoundly thankful for our Members’ dedication and the difference they make in their communities every day. Through their efforts, Foodbank Queensland can provide vital food relief to countless Queenslanders.

School Breakfast Program Spotlight



Foodbank’s School Breakfast Programs now support 49,900 Queensland school aged children each week!

Feeding our children provides so much more than just a meal. With a nutritious breakfast, they can better focus and concentrate, improving their learning outcomes and physical and mental health. Our School Breakfast Program helps Queensland schools ensure that children who would otherwise go without have the nourishment they need to thrive. Every week we help feed 49,900 school students.

The School Breakfast Program supports students’ health and education by creating a more equitable learning environment and addressing barriers faced by Queensland families.

Recognising its importance, Foodbank Queensland has expanded the program from 300 to nearly 400 schools in the last financial year. We’ve also piloted tailored approaches to better meet the diverse needs of schools and communities, moving away from a one-size-fits-all model.

Additionally, we’ve extended our services to the Torres Strait and Cape York regions through a partnership with Community Enterprise Queensland, providing non-perishable breakfast options and encouraging schools to suggest culturally appropriate additions.

Key Aspects of the School Breakfast Program



Nutritious Food Provision

The program supplies schools with a range of healthy breakfast foods. This includes items such as cereals, milk, fruit, and other nutritious options.



Addressing Food Insecurity

By providing free breakfasts, the program helps to alleviate some of the pressures on families experiencing food insecurity, ensuring that students don’t start their school day hungry.



Promoting Health and Education

A balanced breakfast improves concentration, behaviour, and overall student learning. The program enhances nutrition, fosters positive relationships, and boosts engagement, leading to better academic performance, healthier eating habits, and increased school attendance. Teachers also benefit from reduced burnout and improved classroom dynamics, creating a more supportive and effective school environment.



Community Involvement

Foodbank Queensland often works with local communities and Members to facilitate the program.

"The students love our brekky program. Senior students get a chance to volunteer, help make and serve breakfast items to their fellow students. We have students of all ages access our brekky program. It's a great time as school Chappy gets to meet and greet the students and give them a good start to their day."

– School Breakfast Program Coordinator, Bundaberg area

"We know that when we can provide a student breakfast and lunch options, they are far more likely to attend school, when that child is also facing or at risk of homelessness, the ability to provide healthy food on a regular basis is far more than a wish it is a necessity."

– School Breakfast Program Coordinator, Townsville area



Real Stories of Queensland Hunger

Mike and Jenny's Story

Mike* and his family know that without food, survival is the only focus. After moving from New Zealand, Mike was thrilled with the job opportunities in Australia.

However, after his hours were cut and a serious accident left him unable to work for four months, Mike unfortunately fell behind on rent. This saw Mike, his wife Jenny, and their three children evicted. They faced impossible choices between essentials like school supplies and food.

"We were finding it hard to put food on the table daily, to make sure the kids had enough to survive. I lost a lot of weight from stress; I couldn't eat or sleep. You've got things like excursions, books, and school fees—you're weighing up whether to get these or buy food. Without food, you're not going to survive."

Their hope came through a Foodbank Member, where they accessed heavily discounted groceries and essential items, sourced from Foodbank Queensland. Saving money at the checkout allowed Mike's family to regain stability. The children received healthy, nutritious meals, enabling them to focus on schoolwork.

"Food makes the kids happy because they know they've got something in their stomachs. It's about feeding your children and seeing them eat, be stronger, and nourish their minds."

Thanks to the incredible support of the Foodbank Member, Mike's family got back on their feet.

"Without your support, Foodbank couldn't do what they do every day. The more support Foodbank gets, the more it will make a massive difference in everybody's lives."



*Mike and his family are real Queenslanders; their names and images have been changed for privacy.



Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers are a crucial lifeline to Foodbank Queensland, providing invaluable support throughout the organisation. Their assistance enables Foodbank Queensland to supply essential groceries to hundreds of frontline charities and organisations across the state, feeding hungry Queenslanders in need.

Over the last financial year, Foodbank Queensland's 135 volunteers gifted over 12,000 hours to help support Queenslanders. That's the equivalent of \$400,000 in wages redirected to essential programs, thanks to our compassionate volunteers!

One such generous volunteer is Cath. She not only supports Foodbank Queensland financially but also dedicates her time, a testament to her generosity and kindness.

Cath shared why she chose to support Foodbank Queensland.

"My husband and I have financially supported Foodbank Queensland for about 4 or 5 years. We think Foodbank is so important, and that's why we decided to support it financially. He passed away last year, so I continued as that's what we wanted to do. After his passing, I felt I needed purpose in my life, so I decided to volunteer. It's been a great experience, meeting more people, and I enjoy it immensely."

Thank you, Cath, and to all Foodbank volunteers for your unwavering commitment towards a Queensland without hunger.





Partner Spotlight

Working with Amazon to strengthen our disaster response

Foodbank Queensland and Amazon have partnered to implement a pre-positioning program for emergency relief kits to support Queenslanders when disaster strikes. The partnership involves Foodbank Queensland working with our Member Organisations in five regions across regional and remote Queensland to pre-position disaster response products that Amazon has generously donated.

Foodbank Queensland and Amazon staff and volunteers assisted in packing 1,800 personal hygiene kits and 900 clean-up kits that can assist 2,700 Queensland families. The pre-positioned products are being stored and will be distributed by Foodbank Queensland's Members in Cairns, Townsville, Western Downs, South West Queensland and Rockhampton when required.

The products are designed to support Queenslanders in the first 72 hours after a disaster and also include First Response pallets that contain battery packs, nappies, and sleeping bags. The response has been informed by Members in each community, our learnings from supporting six Queensland communities who responded to disasters in 2023/24, and consultation with disaster relief provider Red Cross. The pre-positioning of disaster response products is designed to overcome logistical and transport challenges that occur during disaster, such as road closures and delays in product delivery over long distances.

A heartfelt thank you to Amazon for their support in this partnership and for preparing to help Queenslanders in need. We also thank our Members, local Council and organisations who have assisted in the pre-placement of these kits.

Food Donor Spotlight

Working with Greensill Farming to provide fresh food to families

Bundaberg based Greensill Farming is one of Foodbank Queensland's 64 farm food donors. During the past financial year, Greensill Farming has continued to be a significant supplier of fresh produce, donating fresh sweet potatoes of all shapes and sizes.

Driven by their sense of community and care, Damien Botha from Greensill Farming, explained why they have chosen to support Foodbank Queensland.

"We work with Foodbank Queensland because it allows us to extend our local community support to Brisbane and South East Queensland, providing high-quality fruit and vegetables to those in need."

Fresh produce is crucial for a healthy diet, offering essential nutrients, vitamins, and fibre. It helps prevent diseases, boosts the immune system, and supports digestion. By ensuring a steady supply of fresh produce, food donors like Greensill Farming play a critical role in improving the health and nutrition of Queenslanders in need.

We are deeply thankful and grateful for all our food donors, whose generous support enables us to feed thousands of Queenslanders each year.





Thank you

**We couldn't do it
without you**

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