Who:
Tasmanian Food Access Research Coalition

Determinants of food security:
Food Supply and Access to Food

Sub-determinants:
Location of food outlets, Availability in outlets, Financial resources and Transport to shops

Location & year:
Dorset and Clarence Local Government Areas in 2011

Story tellers:
Residents of Clarence and Dorset

SUMMARY/DESCRIPTION

Our project is a community development and research process to improve the measurement of food security in Dorset and Clarence Local Government Areas.

- Anglicare is the lead agency, with overall responsibility for the project.

We are joined by five organisations to form the core project group:

- The University of Tasmania Department of Rural Health (UDRH) & School of Human Life Sciences
- Dorset Council
- Clarence City Council
- Primary Health North Esk (DHHS)

Six community groups are working with us:

- Neighbourhood Centres at Clarendon Vale, Risdon Vale, & Warrane Mornington
- Community Houses of Dorset & Rokeby and
- Tasmanian Centre for Global Learning

“We are looking at local strategies to address food access”.

HOW WE WILL WORK

The project will operate at a number of intersecting levels, using different ways of measuring whether people have sufficient access to healthy food.

UDRH will bring information together and prepare detailed maps of the two Local Government Areas, identifying shops and other food outlets, as well as whether people can conveniently reach them on foot.

The School of Human Life Sciences will design a ‘healthy food basket’—a list of nutritious items that people should be able to buy and eat.

Local people will train and be employed as community researchers to assess the accessibility of food outlets and the quality of the food available.

Other individuals and groups will be engaged in community events and meetings to provide information about the challenges they face in getting access to healthy food.

Tasmania
Community Nutrition Unit
Department of Health and Human Services
WHAT WILL COME OUT OF THE PROJECT?

The Tasmanian Food Access Research Coalition will contribute to the development of a research base for a monitoring and surveillance framework for Tasmania.

Understanding why people experience food insecurity including:
- Information on whether geography or infrastructure limits people’s access to food.
- Data on food access and supply in two very different Local Government Areas, covering urban, rural and remote communities.

Understanding the barriers and enablers to food security including:
- Increased community understanding of what contributes to food security and what makes it difficult for people.
- Recommendations for initiatives to promote food security that have been developed and supported by communities themselves.

Tools for measuring food security including:
- Tasmania specific tools to measure food security including a model for a healthy food basket.
- Information about all the food outlets in two Local Government Areas that can be used again for future planning.
- Mapping of how easy it is to walk to shops and other food outlets.
- Mapping of ‘food desert’ areas where it is difficult for people to acquire healthy food.

CHALLENGES

Working in coalition with such a number and variety of organisations will be challenging to ensure that we are all operating in complementary ways to keep the project on track and on time. However, this is also one of the exciting positives about the project.

FUNDING

The Tasmanian Food Access Research Coalition is a stage one funded initiative of the Tasmanian Food Security Fund with in-kind support being provided by the Tasmanian Food Security Council and the collaborative organisations.

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This fact sheet is an initiative of the Tasmanian Food Security Council.