



# FOOD RELIEF TO FOOD RESILIENCE

TASMANIAN FOOD  
SECURITY STRATEGY

2021-24

---

**If you are deaf, have a hearing impairment or have complex communication needs, phone the National Relay Service on 13 36 77 or the Speech-to-Speech Relay Service on 1300 555 727.**

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of Tasmania's land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to Elders – past and present.

Communities, Sport and Recreation  
Department of Communities Tasmania  
GPO Box 65  
HOBART TAS 7001

**Phone: (03) 6165 8388**

**Website:** <https://www.communities.tas.gov.au/>


**Facebook:** Communities Tasmania

Copyright State of Tasmania  
ISBN is 978 0 6450211 4 |  
August 2021

---

# CONTENTS

<b>MINISTERIAL FOREWORD</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>GLOSSARY</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FOSTERING RESILIENCE</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>THE FOOD RELIEF SYSTEM</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>WHAT WE HEARD</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>OUR GOAL</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>OUR PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>16</b>
Supporting Tasmanians in Need	16
Community Driven	16
Working Together	16
Informed and Responsive to Future Need	16
<b>OUR PRIORITIES</b>	
<b>Priority 1</b> Integrated Support – Collaborative leadership and innovation	18
<b>Priority 2</b> Place-Based – Supporting community food resilience solutions	19
<b>Priority 3</b> Data and Information – Understanding Tasmanian food relief and food resilience through improved data and information sharing	20
<b>ALIGNMENT OF OBJECTIVES TO PESRAC</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>26</b>



**EVERY  
TASMANIAN MUST  
HAVE ACCESS  
TO SUFFICIENT,  
QUALITY AND  
NUTRITIOUS FOOD  
WHEN THEY NEED  
IT MOST.**

---

# MINISTERIAL FOREWORD

**Over the last 18 months we have witnessed how extraordinary, unforeseen circumstances have the potential to upturn the lives of any of us. Whether it's as far reaching as the COVID-19 pandemic, or the daily challenges faced by some to make ends meet, every Tasmanian must have access to sufficient, quality and nutritious food when they need it most.**

We know many people access food relief when they reach crisis point, and that it's a short-term solution until things improve. But from our front-line services, it's clear that many more are needing to rely on food relief in the long-term.

We need a long-term plan, which is why we have developed Tasmania's Food Relief to Food Resilience Strategy.

Providing food relief creates an opportunity to start a conversation - to find support, to connect to each other, and build a path to food resilience.

While the pandemic has shown us uncertainty and challenge, it has also shown the great strength, cooperation and dedication of our food relief providers and their communities, passionate about supporting individuals and families across the State to be food secure.

The pandemic has also highlighted the need to better connect these support services, so that they can work together for the benefit of all.

While some of these are funded by Government, others are grassroots, community-owned and led. Some are navigating the distribution of surplus produce, providing low or no cost food, operating food enterprises, or delivering food hampers or ready to eat meals. Others offer social opportunities to participate in community gardens, cooking and nutrition programs, and sit-down meals.

All of these organisations play a critical role in supporting the food resilience, and long-term food security, of those most in need and we thank them and their passionate teams, including the dedicated volunteers, for helping ensure food gets to those who need it most.



Long-term solutions require a shared understanding that the food relief system which is highly complex. Tasmania's regionally dispersed population and large national food relief organisations have limited operations in the State, which is why connection and collaboration is key to finding solutions.

This Strategy will help ensure the viability of our food relief system into the future. It provides a blueprint to harness the innovation and collaboration we have witnessed to respond to demand, to find ways to create a sustainable and connected system that helps ensure all Tasmanians can access healthy, nutritious food wherever they may live.

Critical to this goal is the knowledge and expertise our communities hold about local need – and fostering the strengths and resources of state-wide and local organisations.

The Tasmanian Government will now work with the food relief sector to co-design an Action Plan, that will identify the activities we will undertake to support the food relief sector and their community partners to continue their critical work.

I thank all involved in the development of this Strategy, and I look forward to continuing to work together as we support the long-term food security of all Tasmanians.

**The Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP  
Minister for Community Services and  
Development**

---

# GLOSSARY

**For the purposes of this Strategy, the following terms are used to describe Tasmania's food relief system:**

**Food loss and waste** is any food, and inedible parts of food, removed from the food supply chain to be recovered or disposed (including composted, crops ploughed in/not harvested, anaerobic digestion, bio-energy production, co-generation, incineration, disposal to sewer, landfill or discarded to sea).<sup>1</sup>

**Food relief** is the provision of food to people in need, delivered directly to individuals through a variety of different methods by community service organisations (food relief providers).

**Food relief distributors** are organisations that collect, sort and distribute surplus and donated food from across the state to food relief providers in Tasmanian communities.

**Food relief providers** are community service organisations that supply food relief directly to those in need. They are often charitable organisations and food provision may or may not be their core business. Food relief providers may also be agents of food distributors (acquiring low cost food from distributors to give to their clients). Food relief is provided in several forms including hampers, food vans, ready-to-eat meals or low-cost food, while some organisations provide food vouchers.

**Food rescue** is the collection of surplus and donated food by food relief distributors who acquire food from a range of sources including agricultural producers, food processors, supermarkets, and other organisations.

**Food resilience** is the ability to prepare for, withstand, and recover from a crisis or disruption. A resilient food system is able to withstand and recover from disruptions in a way that ensures a sufficient supply of acceptable and accessible food for all.

**Food security** is understood to mean access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.<sup>2</sup> It has four pillars of delivery:

**Availability** is about food supply and trade, not just quantity but also the quality and diversity of food. Improving availability requires sustainable, productive farming systems, well managed natural resources, and policies to enhance productivity.

**Access** covers economic and physical access to food. Improving access requires better market access for smallholders allowing them to generate more income from cash crops, livestock products and other enterprises.

**Utilisation** is about how the body uses the various nutrients in food. A person's health, feeding practices, food preparation, diversity of their diet and intra-household distribution of food all affect a person's nutrition status. Improving utilisation requires improving nutrition and food safety, increasing diversity in diets, reducing post-harvest loss and adding value to food.

**Stability** is about being food secure at all times. Food insecurity can be transitory, with short-term shocks the result of a bad season, a change in employment status, conflict or a rise in food prices. When prices rise, it is the poor who are most at risk because they spend a much higher portion of their income on food. Social nets can play an important role in supporting people through transitory food insecurity.<sup>3</sup>



**FOOD RELIEF CREATES  
AN OPPORTUNITY  
TO START A  
CONVERSATION – TO  
FIND SUPPORT, TO  
CONNECT TO EACH  
OTHER, AND TO BUILD  
A PATH TO FOOD  
RESILIENCE.**

---

# FOSTERING RESILIENCE

**It is unilaterally agreed by food providers, distributors and community stakeholders involved in the development of this Strategy that all Tasmanians should be food secure, and that we should endeavour to plan, wherever possible, to create connected systems that support food security.**

Food security, as defined by the Committee on World Food Security, is:

---

**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.<sup>4</sup>**

---

At its simplest, this means the availability of food and individuals' ability to access it.

The research also shows that food insecurity is rarely an emergency; it is much more likely to be chronic over a longer period. Anecdotal reports from food relief providers and distributors suggest this is no different in Tasmania.

During the height of COVID-19 in 2020, the demand for food relief rose. A survey conducted by the University of Tasmania found that in May 2020 almost 26 per cent of Tasmanians experienced food insecurity to some extent because of the pandemic, with 14 per cent of survey respondents experiencing severe levels of food insecurity.<sup>5/6</sup>

This research was consistent with a reported spike in demand for emergency food relief (EFR) by frontline community service organisations, particularly during lockdowns.

This survey was repeated again in September 2020 and May 2021 and noted that while Tasmanians experiencing food insecurity had decreased to 18 per cent respectively but, had not reduced to pre-pandemic levels of six per cent, indicating the pandemic has long-lasting impacts on food security.<sup>7</sup>

The research indicates that food insecure households coped by eating less food and eating lower quality food, and only five per cent of food insecure respondents accessed emergency food relief distributors, indicating community food solutions to food insecurity remain a priority.<sup>8</sup>

In the context of food security, the need to increase the sustainability of Tasmania's food relief system to respond to events like the pandemic was highlighted by the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC).



**NATIONAL RESEARCH INDICATED THAT IN 2019, PRIOR TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, FOOD INSECURITY WAS A GROWING PROBLEM. DEMAND FOR EMERGENCY FOOD ACROSS AUSTRALIA HAD INCREASED BY 22 PERCENT IN THE PRECEDING 12 MONTHS.<sup>9</sup>**



---

PESRAC was established by the Tasmanian Government to support the State's short to medium, and longer-term recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. PESRAC's interim report released in July 2020 noted that the long-term nature of recovery makes continual 'emergency food relief' unsustainable, and efforts to alleviate food relief should be prioritised in areas of high need.

---

**The long-term nature of recovery makes continual 'emergency food relief' unsustainable. One element of building community resilience is to shift from 'emergency food relief' to community-based food security models where the need is the greatest. Such a transition would need to be undertaken while maintaining a demand-based level of emergency food relief in the interim.**

---

PESRAC ultimately recommended that:

---

**The State Government should plan and transition from increased emergency food relief provision towards community-based and school-based food security models.**

---

In its Final Report, PESRAC expanded its findings, noting that:

The State Government should ensure that the Food Security Strategy currently being prepared:

- Expands on recent trials of school lunch provision to include greater school and community provision;
- Adopts a place-based approach to community food security models and not a 'one-size-fits-all' approach;

- Includes strong links to local agricultural and hospitality businesses including training opportunities for program participants; and
- Is scalable in design so that any potential increase in demand for emergency food relief can be managed in a rapid and effective manner.

The development of this Strategy will pave a way forward to increase the food security of Tasmanians in need, in consultation with key food relief providers and distributors in Tasmania.

Central to this Strategy is the development of an Action Plan, in close consultation with Government and community partners, to improve opportunities for integrated support, the development of community solutions and a greater understanding of local food relief and food security. This Strategy and Action Plan is supported by the Tasmanian Government's ongoing policies and programs outlined in the Appendix as well as recent commitments to:

- Deliver \$3 million in emergency food relief and food security to help the most vulnerable;
- Extend the School Lunch Program pilot to 30 schools, with a \$1.4 million investment;
- Increase funding to \$60,000 per year each, to Gran's Van, Loui's Van and Mission Beat, for three years; and
- Work in partnership with Volunteering Tasmania to build a Youth Volunteer Army, to encourage a new generation of life-long volunteers, on top of our investments to further support the re-engagement of volunteers and re-connect past volunteers.



**INCREASE  
KNOWLEDGE  
OF FOOD RELIEF  
PROVISION,  
DEMAND AND  
SERVICE GAPS  
TO INFORM  
GOVERNMENT  
DECISION  
MAKING.**

---

# BACKGROUND

**In 2020, the Tasmanian Government undertook a project to produce an internal point-in-time Geospatial Map of Emergency Food Relief services in Tasmania, based on a survey of known food relief providers. A Reference Group of internal and external stakeholders supported the project. The purpose of this work was to increase knowledge of food relief provision, demand and service gaps to inform Government decision making.**

The project commenced shortly before COVID-19 and was then modified to accommodate the impacts of the initial few months of the crisis. While data on the true impacts of the pandemic were limited at the time, the project identified a number of pressure points and issues for further interrogation. Key findings included:

- The complexity of the range of stakeholders, systems and determinants involved in the food relief system;
- The number of providers purchasing food from local supermarkets;
- The breadth of food relief offered by some schools;
- Potential food 'deserts' (where there is a lack of food relief providers in one geographical area) or 'clusters' (a density of food relief providers in one geographic location); and
- The potential to harness efforts for collaboration and coordination in order to meet the needs of Tasmanians in vulnerable circumstances, both in providing food relief, and in increasing food resilience in the long-term.

The level of need for food relief was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Governments across the world closed borders and instituted necessary restrictions to protect the health and safety of their communities.

For Tasmanians, this led to an increased need for food relief as many Tasmanians lost income due to employment changes such as businesses closing, or not being able to access food via their usual means.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the declaration of a State of Emergency from May to December 2020, two major food distributors and three food relief providers received additional funding from the Tasmanian Government to supply food relief during COVID-19.

The Tasmanian Government also delivered an open, competitive small grants program for local emergency food relief organisations, with grants of up to \$10 000 to provide hampers or ready to eat meals for their communities.

An Emergency Food Relief COVID-19 Response Group was established by the Tasmanian Government, comprising Government and non-government stakeholders. Members of this group have continued to inform the development of this Strategy.

While the pandemic put pressure on the State's food relief system, anecdotal evidence and survey responses from the Emergency Food Relief Geospatial Mapping project indicated that COVID-19 presented opportunities for innovation to improve systems for food relief delivery and better understand demand and supply in Tasmania, including emerging areas of need. There was also increased interest in supporting local providers and suppliers to mitigate food insecurity.

During COVID-19, many organisations continued to support clients with long-term reliance on food relief, as well as support new clients impacted by COVID-19. There was a shared desire amongst a number of food relief stakeholders to go beyond providing food, to preventing food insecurity. For example, finding ways to address the key drivers of long-term need for food relief, such as geographical isolation, employment and financial and food literacy.

---

# THE FOOD RELIEF SYSTEM

A Glossary is included in this Strategy to foster a shared understanding of the terms often used in discussions regarding food relief and food security.

Tasmania's current food relief system largely relies on food distribution organisations such as Loaves and Fishes Tasmania and Foodbank Tasmania, to distribute surplus and donated food to food relief providers to provide to those in need. In addition, there are also community driven social enterprises and cooperatives that provide low or no cost food.

The food relief system in Tasmania is illustrated below:



## FUNDING

- Australian Government
- Tasmanian Government
- Business
- Philanthropy
- Fundraising
- Private donations
- Local grocer's donations
- Local farmer donations
- Handling fees



## FOOD RESCUE

- Transportation of food rescued or donated
- Warehouses and kitchens for storage and preparation of food



## FOOD RELIEF

Access to free or low-cost food through:

- Food vouchers
- Hampers
- Ready-to-eat meals
- Community food pantries
- Community gardens
- School food programs



## CLIENTS

People experiencing:

- Financial crisis
- Social isolation
- Low income
- Unemployment
- Natural disaster/s
- Homelessness
- Family violence



---

# WHAT WE HEARD

**The collaboration demonstrated in local responses to COVID-19, and the Tasmanian Government’s ongoing consultation with the food relief sector, have heavily influenced the development of this Strategy.**

To develop this Strategy, consultation was undertaken with the food relief sector, including individual food relief providers, and Tasmanian Government agencies with financial or operational investment in food production and distribution.



This Strategy has been informed by:

- A point-in-time survey of established food relief providers for the development of the EFR Geospatial Mapping Project (noted above);
- Data provided by the Tasmanian School Canteen Association, the Commonwealth Data Exchange (DEX) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics;
- The Tasmanian Government Food Relief Community Reference Group, established to inform the development of this Strategy;
- The Tasmanian Government Food Relief Steering Committee, established to provide strategic oversight for this Strategy;
- A review of available food relief and food security literature;
- A jurisdictional analysis of Australian approaches to food relief and food security; and
- Collation of current Tasmanian Government initiatives impacting food relief, including the Healthy Tasmania Strategic Plan, and the work of the Premier’s Health and Wellbeing Advisory Council.

THESE CONSULTATIONS  
WERE UNDERTAKEN TO  
BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW,  
THROUGH COLLABORATION,  
**WE CAN ALL  
SUPPORT**  
TASMANIANS IN NEED  
TO BECOME MORE FOOD  
SECURE, TO IMPROVE THE  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING  
OF ALL TASMANIANS.

# WHAT WE HEARD

Key findings of the Tasmanian Government's EFR Geospatial Mapping project include:

- The complexity of Tasmania's food relief system, with a range of different organisations providing varied services, that in most cases do not operate in a collaborative way;
- A potentially high reliance on the purchasing of food from local supermarkets or private donations by organisations;
- The breadth of food relief offered across schools, sometimes providing emergency food relief for students, their families and the wider community. These are not just school breakfast programs but may also include distribution of food hampers and other features similar to a community food hub;
- Potential food 'deserts' or 'clusters' of services and service providers located in one geographic location;
- Potential to harness efforts for collaboration and coordination amongst food relief providers;
- The flexibility and fluidity of some food relief providers, noting that this survey did not include 'pop up' EFR;
- Difficulties measuring fluctuating demand;
- Definitions of food relief are ill-defined with an assumption that emergency food relief is accessed by Tasmanians in times of crisis for short periods of time, when we know that many Tasmanians rely on food relief for long periods of time due to long-term food insecurity, caused by a range of factors such as financial resources, employment and a lack of knowledge around sourcing and preparing food; and

- At a point in time, 282 organisations appear on the map, including State funded school programs, State funded neighbourhood houses and local organisations not funded but receiving food from Tasmanian funded state-wide distributors.

THERE IS POTENTIAL TO  
**HARNESS  
EFFORTS FOR  
COLLABORATION  
AND  
COORDINATION**  
AMONGST FOOD  
RELIEF PROVIDERS.



---

## WHAT WE HEARD



**Further consultation with the Food Relief Community Reference group and its members' networks, and the Government Steering Committee was undertaken to explore the finding of the Emergency Food Relief Geospatial Mapping Project.**

---

Stakeholders were provided with a consultation paper focussed on transitioning those in need from food relief to food resilience, coupled with a joint workshop of key Government and food relief stakeholders.

Agencies and the community sector told us that:

- Food insecurity is becoming less an emergency and more a long-term and, in some cases, intergenerational problem;
- The lived experience of Tasmanians in vulnerable circumstances must be reflected in the development and delivery of responses that support the transition to food relief;
- There are gaps in transport logistics and infrastructure between food retail, food rescue and food relief organisations;
- During COVID-19 the demand for food relief exceeded the levels of available supplies in some regional communities;
- Food relief needs to meet the nutritional, cultural and social needs of Tasmanians in need;
- There is a need to ensure that local service providers are integrated with state-wide distributors and other organisations to best deliver support to Tasmanians in need;



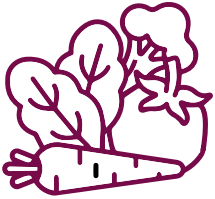
---

## WHAT WE HEARD

- There is a wide range of food relief models, ranging from 'pop up' initiatives offering food to those in need, to established walk-in food relief providers, food vouchers, hampers, ready-to-eat meals, 'dining with friends programs', social enterprises providing hospitality training, and food vans;
- The food relief sector does not exist in isolation and food relief services need to be better integrated with support services for Tasmanians;
- The food relief sector relies heavily on a volunteer workforce, however, the volunteering sector is facing its own challenges;
- Many Tasmanians facing food insecurity, particularly for the first time, are unaware of how to access food relief services, feel shame approaching services or think services should go to others more in need;
- Significant data gaps exist, and we need to develop better evaluation systems to map, monitor and measure the need for, or impact of, food relief services;
- There needs to be better coordination of food relief activities to improve information sharing, cohesion of efforts and monitoring; and
- Stakeholders involved in food relief are many and varied and may provide formal or informal support. Stakeholders span areas of expertise including food production, distribution, housing, nutrition, mental health, wellbeing, social networking, community support, housing, education and Local Government.

WE HAVE HEARD THAT  
**SUPPORTING  
TASMANIANS IN  
NEED**  
REQUIRES US TO ACTIVELY  
SUPPORT THIS MOMENTUM  
FOR COLLECTIVE, CONNECTED,  
CO-OPERATIVE  
COMMUNITY-BASED  
SOLUTIONS.

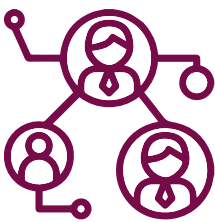




## OUR GOAL

An integrated food relief sector that supports Tasmanians in need to access sufficient, safe, nutritious, quality food, and access services that support long-term food resilience.

---



## OUR PRINCIPLES

Government and community efforts to increase collaboration, innovation and coordination across Tasmania's food relief sector will be guided by:

### **Supporting Tasmanians in Need**

Food relief provides a critical opportunity to connect Tasmanians in need to services that address the determinants of food insecurity;

### **Community Driven**

Local communities are best placed to understand local need. They must be informed, connected and empowered to develop locally based solutions;

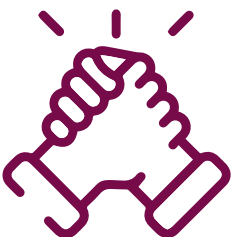
### **Working Together**

Collaboration across all levels of Government, the food relief sector and the community sectors is critical to successful local solutions that meet the demand for food relief and drive food resilience; and

### **Informed and Responsive to Future Need**

Data gathering and information sharing across the food relief sector is required to ensure solutions meet the needs of individual communities and can respond to future demand.

---



## OUR PRIORITIES

Activity to support food resilience will address three Priority Areas. The priority areas are:

- **Integrated Support** – Collaborative and connected leadership and innovation;
- **Place-Based** – Support for community food resilience solutions; and
- **Data and Information** – Understanding Tasmanian food relief and food resilience through improved data and information sharing.

The table below details objectives against each Priority Area. These objectives will help to focus Government efforts and will form the foundation of the Strategy Action Plan.



**LOCAL COMMUNITIES  
ARE BEST PLACED  
TO UNDERSTAND  
LOCAL NEED. THEY  
MUST BE INFORMED,  
CONNECTED AND  
EMPOWERED TO  
DEVELOP LOCALLY  
BASED SOLUTIONS.**

---

# OUR PRIORITIES

## Priority I

### Integrated Support – Collaborative leadership and innovation

The process of surveying local food relief providers and geospatial mapping of their responses demonstrated the complexity of food security in Tasmania. Leadership is needed to build the capacity of local organisations to mobilise action. These focus areas are designed to recognise the inherent connection between food resilience and the safety, health and wellbeing of Tasmanians.

NO.	FOCUS	OBJECTIVE
I.1	Connection	Identify and promote the factors of success underlying current models of service integration in Tasmania, such as community food hubs, school food programs, hospitality based social enterprises and service referral pathways.  Encourage increased connection of these services across Tasmania.
I.2		Identify the challenges and opportunities for food resilience design and delivery in our regional and remote communities.
I.3	Sector Leadership	Advocate the role and responsibilities of state-wide leaders in food distribution, food literacy and education, and food relief provision across the community sector.
I.4	Food Literacy and Nutrition	Through a systems approach, support the coordination, collaboration and promotion of existing educational programs that provide Tasmanians with the capabilities and nutritional knowledge to access food and to eat well.
I.5	Local Food Systems	Develop opportunities to connect state-wide and local food relief providers and the local agricultural, hospitality, horticulture and processing industries to promote self-sufficiency, and to reduce food waste and food loss.

---

# OUR PRIORITIES

## Priority 2

### Place-Based – Supporting community food resilience solutions

Tasmania's social and geographical diversity presents opportunities for innovation. These focus areas are designed to encourage solutions that are responsive to local need.

NO.	FOCUS	OBJECTIVE
2.1	<b>Community Led Co-Design</b>	Create connections to better integrate networks and foster partnerships that support locally driven solutions with relevant Government and community sector activities, including school food programs, with priority given to communities with gaps in supply as identified in the Tasmanian Government food mapping survey.
2.2		Work with the Local Government Association of Tasmania to identify and support opportunities for Councils to lead place-based initiatives to build food resilience.
2.3	<b>Capacity Building</b>	Work with organisations to understand the barriers and motivations of volunteers and volunteer involving organisations, to ensure a sustainable volunteer workforce.
2.4		Provide access to business and project design support, including support for the development of hospitality-based employment and training opportunities through food relief social enterprises.
2.5	<b>Strengthening Food Systems</b>	Identify pathways to increase community awareness and responsibility for food relief, including avenues for donation of in-kind support, such as backyard, community gardens or surplus produce.

---

# OUR PRIORITIES

## Priority 3

### **Data and Information – Understanding Tasmanian food relief and food resilience through improved data and information sharing**

Data and information sharing must underpin long-term solutions. These focus areas are designed to promote the utility of existing information, and identify the affordability, availability and sustainability of healthy food at the local level – which is vital to identify the communities most reliant on food relief.

NO.	FOCUS	OBJECTIVE
3.1	<b>Data Gathering</b>	Implement routine collection of organisational based data on the distribution of food relief in Tasmania, including geographic and demographic information where possible to better understand the needs of specific population groups.
3.2		Undertake regional profiling of food relief and food resilience initiatives in consultation with communities, mapping available geographic and social data relevant to each location. This will build on work already undertaken by the Tasmanian Government in this area.
3.3	<b>Lived Experience</b>	Support the collection and dissemination of information on the lived experience of Tasmanians seeking food relief, to inform service design, delivery and evaluation that will lead to food resilience.
3.4	<b>Understanding Systems</b>	Undertake an audit of resources and platforms that assist food relief organisations to deliver their services, support food resilience and provide referral pathways, to increase connectivity and consistency.
3.5	<b>Governance</b>	Support a community sector alliance to inform Government decision-making, advocate sector concerns, share information, monitor demand and contribute to the development of community-based solutions and build local capacity to sustain long-term change. This alliance will liaise directly with the Department of Communities Tasmania.

# ALIGNMENT OF OBJECTIVES TO PESRAC

These objectives are designed to support PESRAC's Recommendations, as outlined below, and will be implemented through a co-designed Action Plan.



*Expand on recent trials of school lunch provision to include greater school and community provision*

Food Literacy and Nutrition  
Sector Leadership

Community led co-design  
Capacity Building

Data Gathering

*Adopt a place-based approach to community food security models and not a 'one size fits all' approach*

Connection  
Sector Leadership  
Food Literacy and Nutrition

Community led co-design  
Capacity Building  
Strengthening Food Systems

Data Gathering  
Lived Experience  
Understanding Systems  
Governance

*Include strong links to local agricultural and hospitality businesses including training opportunities for program participants*

Connection  
Local Food Systems

Capacity Building  
Strengthening Food Systems

Data Gathering  
Understanding Systems  
Governance

*Scaleable in design so that any potential increase in demand for emergency food relief can be managed in a rapid and effective manner*

Connection  
Sector Leadership  
Local Food Systems

Community led co-design  
Capacity Building  
Strengthening Food Systems

Data Gathering  
Governance

---

## NEXT STEPS

**A whole-of-government Action Plan will be developed to implement activity across each of the focus areas identified in this Strategy.**

The Action Plan will be developed by the Department of Communities Tasmania, in partnership with the Food Relief Community Reference Group and with the strategic guidance of the Food Relief Government Steering Committee.

The Action Plan will:

- Identify activities that embed the Strategy's principles and implement action across each focus area;
- Take a flexible approach to implementation that considers the needs and views of Tasmanians experiencing food insecurity;
- Implement activities that are based on the best available evidence and informed by the food sector's advice;

- Align with PESRAC's Interim Report Recommendation 62 and Final Report Recommendation 31 and existing Tasmanian Government policies and programs; and
- Be monitored through regular meetings of both the Food Relief Community Reference Group and the Food Relief Government Steering Committee.

The Action Plan will be delivered in January 2022.

---

**The Progress of this Strategy and its Action Plan will be reported six-monthly to the Minister for Community Services and Development and the Minister for Education and Children and Youth Services and reported annually to Cabinet.**

---







---

# APPENDIX

## State Government Initiatives, Programs and Policies

<b>Securing Food Security for Tasmania's Most Vulnerable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A suite of 2021 Election Commitments to extend Government's support for those most in need, supported by \$3 million funding over three years.</li></ul>
<b>Expanding 24 Carrots to more Schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A 2021 State Election will support an additional five schools join the program, teaching more Tasmanian children how to grow, prepare and enjoy eating healthy produce through a school kitchen garden program.</li></ul>
<b>Transforming Tasmania's Mental Health and Wellbeing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A 2021 State Election commitment to trial three Tasmanian Community Health and Wellbeing Networks to empower communities to improve their health literacy and awareness, and coordinate place based preventative health initiatives.</li><li>• Development of the next Healthy Tasmania five-year Strategic Plan.</li><li>• Support community-based programs and initiatives which encourage good health and wellbeing through the Healthy Tasmania Grant Program.</li></ul>
<b>Loaves and Fishes Tasmania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emergency Food Relief Core Funding.</li></ul>
<b>Foodbank Tasmania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emergency Food Relief Core Funding.</li></ul>
<b>Food Vans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To assist with the provision of emergency food relief to Tasmanians in need.</li></ul>
<b>School Lunch Pilot Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A 2021 State Election commitment expanded a school lunch pilot to 30 schools over the next two years, to encourage healthy eating and support better student learning outcomes.</li></ul>
<b>Family Assistance Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To increase provision of direct emergency relief and preventative support programs to Tasmanian families suffering financial hardship.</li></ul>

## State Government Initiatives, Programs and Policies

<b>Neighbourhood Houses Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding support to facilitate programs using a community development model to build individual and community capacity.</li> </ul>
<b>Eat Well Tasmania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding support for Eat Well Tasmania to influence healthy eating in Tasmania and connect the local food system with the community.</li> </ul>
<b>Tasmanian School Canteen Association (TSCA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core funding and School Food Program support for TSCA to work with Tasmanian schools to build on practices that promote and support a whole school approach to eating well, in line with the Australian Curriculum.</li> </ul>
<b>Family Food Patch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empower families and local communities (particularly those from low-income and rural areas) to take action to improve the health and wellbeing of children, with a particular focus on eating well and being physically active.</li> </ul>
<b>Healthy Tasmania Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy Tasmania is a Tasmanian Government and community partnership that supports community-led and evidence based preventive health activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Premier's Health and Wellbeing Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established to provide advice on cross-sector and collaborative approaches to improving the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians.</li> </ul>
<b>Tasmania's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasmania's first comprehensive whole-of-government strategy for children and young people 0-25 years old (to be released in 2021).</li> </ul>

---

## REFERENCES

1. Institute of Food Science and Technology, 'Food Waste', August 2020, <https://www.ifst.org/resources/information-statements/food-waste>.
2. UTAS, 'One in four Tasmanians experiences food shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic', Report Number 15, 15 June 2020, <https://www.utas.edu.au/research-admin/research-news/one-in-four-tasmanians-have-experienced-food-shortages-during-covid-19>.
3. Australian International Food Security Research Council, 2016.
4. UTAS, 'One in four Tasmanians experiences food shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic', Report Number 15, 15 June 2020, <https://www.utas.edu.au/research-admin/research-news/one-in-four-tasmanians-have-experienced-food-shortages-during-covid-19>
5. Kent, Katherine, et al. The Tasmania Project – Report Number 15, University of Tasmania, June 2020
6. Sample size – 1 170 Tasmanians.
7. Kent, Katherine, et al. The Tasmania Project – Report Number 45, University of Tasmania, June 2021.
8. *ibid.*
9. Foodbank Australia, Foodbank Hunger Report 2019.



**If you are deaf, have a hearing impairment or have complex communication needs, phone the National Relay Service on 13 36 77 or the Speech-to-Speech Relay Service on 1300 555 727.**

**Department of Communities Tasmania  
Communities, Sport and Recreation**

**Phone: 1300 135 513**

**Visit: [www.communities.tas.gov.au](http://www.communities.tas.gov.au)**



**Tasmanian  
Government**