

Food Relief to Food Resilience Action Plan 2023-2025

March 2023



The Tasmanian Government acknowledges and deeply respects Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional owners, and continuing custodians of Tasmania’s land and waters.

We acknowledge that for 40,000 years, Tasmanian Aboriginal people have hunted, gathered and lived on this island, nurturing each other with sustenance from the land and waters. Through a strong sense of belonging to Country, Tasmanian Aboriginal people continue to have connections between Community wellbeing and sharing food with one another.

We pay our deepest respect to Elders – past and present, we honour them.

Contents

Appreciation	3
Message from the Minister	4
What we know	6
Food Relief to Food Resilience Strategy: Goal, principles and priorities	8
Our goal	8
Our principles	8
Our priorities	8
Action table	9
Sustainable relief	9
Growing systems	10
Building resilience	11
How the Action Plan was developed	12
Governance	13
Monitoring and Reporting	13



Appreciation

The Tasmanian Government *Food Relief to Food Resilience Action Plan 2023-2025* (the Action Plan) was developed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, in partnership with the following stakeholders who provided strategic guidance in its development.

We thank the following organisations for their advice, contributions and ongoing commitment to food security in Tasmania:

- Anglicare Tasmania
- Eat Well Tasmania
- Families Tasmania
- Foodbank Tasmania
- Hobart City Mission
- Launceston City Mission
- Loaves and Fishes Tasmania
- Local Government Association of Tasmania
- Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania
- Salvation Army
- School Food Matters
- St Vincent de Paul Society of Tasmania
- Tasmanian Council of Social Services
- Volunteering Tasmania
- Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Department for Education, Children and Young People
- Department of Health
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment
- Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Department of State Growth

Message from the Minister



The Tasmanian Government understands the need to get in early and support individuals and organisations who need help with the basics of life. Our commitment is that every Tasmanian has access to sufficient, quality and nutritious food.

In August 2021, we released the *Food Relief to Food Resilience: Strategy 2021-24* (the Strategy). This Action Plan, developed in consultation with community and food security stakeholders, is our government's clear plan to put the Strategy into action.

The Tasmanian Government has committed \$9 million since 2018 towards the delivery of food relief across the State. The funding has been delivered to over 40 organisations, both large and small, to deliver produce, food hampers and ready-made meals to Tasmanians in need. This includes \$1.87 million to the delivery of school lunches in 30 schools across Tasmania.

The Action Plan builds on this support with an additional \$2 million commitment.

Our investment in initiatives to support food security is focused on practical actions to facilitate moving from food relief to food resilience and working in partnership with the community to develop sustainable solutions that meet community need now and into the future.

The Action Plan details a commitment to continue delivering food relief to Tasmanians who need it most, whilst also building food resilience for a sustainable future. The plan focuses on the three priority areas: Integrated Support, Place-based approaches, and Data and Information.

The reasons that people may be food insecure are varied. Finding solutions to food insecurity will be a collaborative effort between government, the community sector and the wider community. Through working together to more deeply understand causes we believe we can put in place more sustainable solutions.

Our centrepiece action is the development and delivery of three place-based pilots to address long-term food insecurity and build food resilience in local communities. This key action acknowledges that the solutions to food security lie with communities, who understand their own distinct issues and opportunities.

We are committed to ensuring all Tasmanians have access to healthy, nutritious food and, as the Minister for Community Services and Development, I am proud to lead our food relief to food resilience journey to achieve a food secure Tasmania.

Hon Nic Street MP
Minister for Community Services and Development



What we know

Tasmania is made up of diverse communities, each with individual opportunities and challenges. Consequently, one-size-fits-all approaches to move individuals and communities from food relief to food resilience are unlikely to succeed.

We also know that food security disproportionately impacts some groups in Tasmania including people living in remote or regional communities, people with disability, Tasmanian Aboriginal people, young people, and people experiencing family violence.

In 2020-21 the Department of Health collected stories about people's experiences of food insecurity, which has informed the Action Plan. The stories told us that people's need for food relief increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we know from food relief organisations that the demand is still high. We need to consider new service models so that people in need can be reached, and to help build a journey from food relief to food resilience.¹

During the COVID-19 pandemic, new groups of Tasmanians experienced food shortages which have continued. Government assistance, including Australian Government payments, are not necessarily enough to enable recipients to cover all of their needs, including food.

The University of Tasmania released the *Tasmania Project Cost of Living Survey Report* in 2022. Findings demonstrated the impacts cost-of-living pressures are having on food security across the State. The report highlights that, with the community, the government needs to implement responsive policy and facilitate community-led solutions to address the systemic issues that lead to food insecurity.

The stakeholder partners who assisted in developing the Action Plan understand that joint leadership is needed to build capacity, and to support local organisations and communities to mobilise action. Activities to be delivered through the Action Plan recognise the inherent connection between food resilience and the safety, health and wellbeing of Tasmanians.

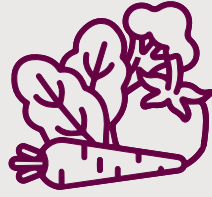
It is recognised that data and information sharing will assist in delivering targeted and sustainable long-term solutions to address barriers to food security.

Tasmania's social and geographical diversity presents opportunities for solutions that are responsive to local needs, acknowledging that people understand issues in their own communities.

¹ <https://www.health.tas.gov.au/health-topics/nutrition-and-physical-activity/health-and-community-workers/food-security>



\$9 million allocated to over **40 organisations** to deliver traditional food relief, **COVID-19** support, school lunch programs and food vans across Tasmania since 2018.



Over **7.5 million** kilograms of food distributed by our two largest food relief providers across Tasmania since 2018.



Food distributed to over **260 organisations** across Tasmania by our largest food relief providers during 2022.



Over **78,832** lunches delivered in the 2022 school year with over 1,600 students fed healthy, nutritious lunches weekly through the School Lunch Pilot Program.



Food Relief to Food Resilience Strategy: Goal, principles and priorities



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 sector is critical to successful local solutions that meet the demand for food relief and drive food resilience.




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
-  **Data and information** – Understanding Tasmanian food relief and food resilience through improved data and information sharing.

Action table

Sustainable relief

Action	Lead	Integrated Support	Place-based	Data and Information
<p>Food Relief and Resilience Geospatial Map including local government profiles</p> <p>Develop the Food Relief Geospatial Map on <i>the List</i> to include local government profiles and details of food resilience projects across Tasmania. The local government profiles will include a snapshot of food relief providers in all local government areas. The map will be used to consolidate existing knowledge of availability and location of food relief and will be built to include food resilience projects across the State, including community gardens and other projects. Consideration will be given to how the map might capture data on community need and demand, and forecast changes in food resilience.</p>	Department of Premier and Cabinet	✓	✓	✓
<p>FindHelpTAS partnership</p> <p>Partner with the Tasmanian Council of Social Services and food sector organisations to improve food relief information available through the FindHelpTAS platform. This will involve using available information and improving accessibility of 'food relief/resilience' services to connect Tasmanians in need with support services.</p>	Department of Premier and Cabinet	✓		✓
<p>Community Food Relief Grants Program</p> <p>Provide \$300,000 to establish a Community Food Relief Grants program to provide funding to local initiatives and small food relief providers. The grants program will be for local organisations and will assist in ensuring sufficient delivery of food relief for those in need.</p>	Department of Premier and Cabinet	✓	✓	✓















Growing systems

Action	Lead	Integrated Support	Place-based	Data and Information
<p>Increasing the capacity of Tasmania's food relief sector</p> <p>Provide additional funding of \$100,000 to Foodbank and \$200,000 to Loaves and Fishes Tasmania to continue to support established food relief. This funding supplements existing commitments of \$3.3 million over 3 years from 2022-23 onwards for emergency food relief.</p> <p>Shift traditional ways of working through collaborating with the food sector to develop tools and resources for providers and agents. This may include provision of reporting templates for governance and data collection, and business and project design support but will be led by sector needs.</p>	Department of Premier and Cabinet	✓		✓
<p>Community Gardens Grants</p> <p>Work in partnership with Neighbourhood Houses to support community gardens across the State. This work includes funding of \$100,000 for the Tasmanian Neighbourhood Houses Community Garden Grants Program which aims to continue building individual and community skills in food resilience to build sustainable solutions to food relief. The support for community gardens is additional to the \$1.75 million funding for Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania as a part of the cost-of-living booster package.</p>	Department of Premier and Cabinet	✓	✓	✓
<p>Developing strategic vision</p> <p>Collaboration between the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Department of Health and community services organisations to develop a strategic approach to deliver nutritious and sustainable food relief. This work will draw on the existing capacity of community services organisations to deliver food relief to Tasmanians in need.</p>	Department of Premier and Cabinet	✓	✓	✓



Building resilience

Action	Lead	Integrated Support	Place-based	Data and Information
<p>School Food Matters - School Lunch Pilot</p> <p>Continue to support the highly successful School Lunch Pilot program, providing an additional \$400,000 to the \$1.87 million committed over 2022 and 2023. Led by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the pilot is facilitating 30 schools to provide nutritious lunches. This is an important step in the path to food resilience in communities. Funding is being distributed according to the needs of participating schools. The pilot is being externally evaluated by the University of Tasmania.</p>	Department of Premier and Cabinet			
<p>Place-based pilots</p> <p>Provide \$800,000 funding over two-years for three place-based pilots to deliver community-led solutions. The pilots will assist in moving from food relief to food resilience by developing sustainable solutions that meet community needs. The pilots will be based in locations surrounded by Regional Jobs Hubs, Child and Family Learning Centres and Neighbourhood Houses in the South, North and North-West of Tasmania.</p>	Tasmanian Food Security Coalition Department of Premier and Cabinet			
<p>Nutritional programs</p> <p>Provide \$100,000 funding for the development of nutritional programs for delivery in Neighbourhood Houses and other community settings. Eat Well Tasmania, supported by the Department of Health, will develop targeted materials to assist in working towards food resilience in local communities across Tasmania. This program will use the existing strengths and connections of Neighbourhood Houses to deliver food resilience activities.</p>	Eat Well Tasmania Department of Health			
<p>Evaluation and review</p> <p>Provide \$100,000 funding to evaluate the Action Plan so we know what works and why. We will also undertake a monitoring and review activity to forecast and plan for future need and to achieve set outcomes. Evaluation, review and future modelling is essential so the Tasmanian Government can better support local communities move from food relief to food resilience.</p>	Department of Premier and Cabinet			



How the Action Plan was developed

The Action Plan was developed in partnership with the food relief sector, community services organisations and the Tasmanian Government. This included public consultation, and regular meetings of key stakeholders.

Submissions and feedback strongly informed the development of the Action Plan. During the consultation it became evident that the actions needed to be bold and innovative to respond to local needs. The Action Plan reflects this feedback and acknowledges that new ways of working will provide the necessary levers to deliver long-term sustainable change.

The Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Committee (PESRAC) was convened to develop responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. PESRAC made several recommendations in July 2020 and March 2021 to enhance food security, particularly during emergency situations. Recommendations from the interim and final reports have been used to inform the Strategy and Action Plan.

The Action Plan acknowledges that every Tasmanian has the right to an adequate standard of living which includes access to food.² The development of the Action Plan was informed by the Tasmanian Government's *Healthy Tasmania Strategic Plan 2022-26* and the *National Food Waste Strategy: Halving Australia's Food Waste by 2030*.³

The Action Plan promotes collaboration and partnership opportunities across the food relief sector to support Tasmanians in need. It encourages a flexible approach to implementation that considers the needs and views of Tasmanians experiencing food insecurity.



2 <https://www.ag.gov.au/rights-and-protections/human-rights-and-anti-discrimination/human-rights-scrutiny/public-sector-guidance-sheets/right-adequate-standard-living-including-food-water-and-housing#:~:text=Everyone%20has%20the%20right%20to,continuous%20improvement%20of%20living%20conditions>

3 <https://www.dceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/national-food-waste-strategy.pdf>



Governance

The journey from food relief to food resilience relies on the food sector, community services organisations and government working together. In recognition of this collective approach, the implementation of the Action Plan will be led by the Department of Premier and Cabinet in collaboration with the Food Relief to Food Resilience Steering Committee.

Monitoring and Reporting

The Department of Premier and Cabinet will monitor progress against initiatives in the Action Plan and provide regular updates to the Steering Committee. A final report will be provided to the Minister for Community Services and Development following the conclusion of the Strategy and Action Plan. This final report will inform future work in food relief and food resilience.

**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.**



**Tasmanian
Government**

Community Policy and Engagement
Department of Premier and Cabinet
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001

Phone: 03 6232 7565

Email: cpe.directorate@dpac.tas.gov.au

Website: www.dpac.tas.gov.au/

Copyright State of Tasmania

Some images supplied by Brand Tasmania