

About Foodbank



What is Foodbank?

Foodbank is Australia's largest food relief organisation, providing 60 million meals a year to over 2,400 charities and 1,000 schools.

Each year we distribute 30 million kilograms of food and groceries with a retail value of more than \$200 million. That's the equivalent of over 166,000 meals a day. Foodbank is also the largest provider in Australia of food to schools for breakfast programs delivering food for over 137,290 breakfasts a week. Foodbank accounts for 78% of all the food distributed to charities by food rescue organisations in Australia.

Foodbank works with over 700 partners including farmers, wholesalers, manufacturers and retailers. Donations include stock that's out of specification, close to expiry, has incorrect labelling or damaged packaging, is excess to requirements or from slow moving or deleted lines. Foodbank is also able to call on industry assistance for donations of essential items at times of emergency such as fires and floods.

Foodbank also collaborates with suppliers, manufacturers and transporters in an innovative initiative called the 'Key Staples Program', to ensure there are supplies of essential food items in our warehouses every day. In this program, food manufacturers produce the products we need using spare production capacity. Suppliers donate or subsidise the ingredients, packaging and delivery of the products to spread the commitment and enhance the sustainability of the program.

The Hidden Crisis

Hunger is a hidden crisis in Australia with over two million Australians, or 1 in 10, seeking food relief at some point each year. Half of those in need are children. The annual Foodbank Hunger Report highlights that it's not just the homeless and unemployed who are doing it tough but low income families and single parents. Also at risk are the elderly, disabled, refugees and people of Aboriginal and Islander descent.

Despite our best efforts the Foodbank Hunger Report reveals that 60,000 people are turned away from charities each month due to a shortage of food and resources.

The Social Return

The need to bridge this gap becomes more compelling when you consider the benefits of ensuring every Australian has enough to eat. According to a recent Foodbank study into the social return on investment of our activities, food security not only addresses immediate nutrition needs but also contributes to improvements in health, emotional wellbeing, sense of self-worth, social relationships and ultimately overall standard of living. Combined with the environmental savings of food not going to waste, the benefit to the community generated by every kilogram of food distributed by Foodbank is valued at \$23.

