

THE HIDDEN HARMS OF FOOD BANKS

How the NGO
industrial
complex keeps
us poor



FOOD IS A HUMAN RIGHT



Last minute entry
This lightly used
spring onion bundle
was in my \$2 fruit
and veg bag on
Monday

What's the thing
you eat the most
of?

What's your
favourite food?

What's something
you grew up
hating?

What's your guilty
pleasure?

Are you
allergic/intolerant
to anything?

Are you
vego/vegan?
Need Halal or
Kosher food?

Are you diabetic

Is your kitchen
any good? How
about
fridge/freezer?

Cooking skills,
time, disability,
energy

Family needs
and wants

What's in
season?

HOW WE GET TO THE \$6 SPAM



PREPACKED HAMPERS

Free to end person

\$25 from FB for the charities on the ground

No choice on content - allergies or preferences, AFIRD

Limited amount each year -eg 10 a year, every 8 weeks or three months

Hoops - prove your needy enough



VOUCHERS

Limited to certain shops, to places that take card

Hoops to jump through - applying online/in person/justifying need

Limited amount/times you can get them each year

Paternalistic "not for ciggs or alcohol" stipulations



"CHOICE"

The shopping like experience

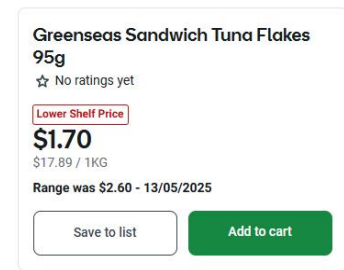
Choice is still very limited

Prices can vary wildly - FB charges an amount and charities can on-sell at cost or mark up to fund other activities/emergency relief

Unable to preplan unlike with supermarket apps, May be cash only.

Short or out of date items.

Rejected/undesirable items



Available in store
[Check other stores](#)



" COLLABORATIVE SUPPLY "

Raw ingredients are supplied by the manufacturer and generally Foodbank pays for the production and packaging and transport

Put in hampers but also on-sold at the local level



pressures, membership changes etc).		
Increases in input costs impacting on gearing.	Select those products from the list of high-demand staples that have the potential to deliver the best gearing. Pursue all avenues for best price products including offshore. Reduce the volume of products sourced to stay within budget.	Gearing rising again thanks to the increase in Collaborative Supply Programs which attract the best gearing of all.

GETTING THE FOOD

Transport – car, public, carrying

Day and time limited – work, appointments, family commitments, health

Xmas or school holiday shutdown, PHs

Refrigeration, summer food storage

How long it keeps – can you go more than once a week for fresh items?

Foodbank NSW & ACT Sponsored · 🌐

🔊 Beep! Beep! Help deliver 12,898 essential food packs to ACT before winter hits. Donate NOW.

Families are going hungry. They can't afford to eat properly by skipping meals. No one can. And no one should.


Before winter hits, help deliver 12,898 essential food packs to families who are struggling to survive the current hunger.

Each essential food pack is filled with:

- 🍞 staples like bread, pasta and rice
- 🥬 fresh and tinned fruit and vegetables for essential vitamins
- 🥩 protein-rich foods – like meat and lentils – to sustain energy

Donate an essential food pack now, before 30 June 2025. You'll help feed hungry families so they can eat, stay healthy and thrive.

Our Community Place Inc 49m · 🌐




NOT ON TODAY!

PLEASE NOTE

The Food Share program (groceries) is **not running today** as it is School Holidays.

****Groceries will be available on Monday 28 of April 2025****

Donate \$42 to deliver NOW!



BE GRATEFUL

Please and thank you

Better than nothing

Beggars can't be choosers

Look how good these ppl are for helping

Othering - eating "weird" things eg kids
lunchbox snacks

Lunchbox rules wouldn't allow some of the
things

Survivor's R Us Incorporated is 🥰 feeling grateful at Survivor's R Us Incorporated.
45m · Cardiff · 🌐

OzHarvest Newcastle
From 9am grab your free fruit and vegetables bag 1 per family
57 Pendlebury Road Cardiff

Foodbank NSW & ACT
Sponsored · 🌐

Could you stretch \$35 to feed a struggling family for a week? Take the quiz to find out. Choose your foods and see how your food box would make all the difference for a family who's doing it tough.

\$35 may not seem like much for a week of groceries. But every day, the Foodbank team packs thousands of food boxes at a cost of just \$35 each. And make sure they're full of tasty, healthy and nutritious food. 🍎

That's a serious challenge. But Foodbank are serious about making sure every family has the food they need.

Want to find out how we do it? Take quiz now and pack a virtual food box now.

Take the Food Box Packer Challenge

West-Bix
Almond & Cranberry Balls

SMART
Veggie Protein

EARL GREY
SUGAR FREE

Donna
MILK

FOOD RESCUE = GOOD RIGHT?

Shifting burden - ditching straight from the bag, a couple days later

Quality

Kudos for supermarkets - less incentives for them to buy the right amounts, price appropriately to sell



WHAT ABOUT DISASTER RELIEF

• We have limited agencies in our network who are listed as EROs. SecondBite has noticed that many of these EROs prefer vouchers. However in an emergency situation such as after an extreme weather event, local stores may not be open or if they are, supplies may be very limited, meaning vouchers may not aid people in need, especially directly after a disaster has occurred. Additionally, emergency situations can happen at any time across Australia. SecondBite may not have an ERO listed agency with the correct infrastructure able to receive actual food items for their community. SecondBite would invite further discussion with the Department, on how this limitation is affecting communities in need of food support and what might be done to improve this process in the future.



SecondBite
13 June at 17:30 · 🌐

When floods swept through NSW, our partner [Coles](#) stepped in to help. From direct gift card donations to free deliveries, their support made a real difference in some of the hardest-hit areas.

In Wingham, where Coles' own store has been severely affected, \$10,000 in Coles Online Credit was provided to:

- [Manning Valley Neighbourhood Services](#)
- [Mid Coast Outreach Incorporated](#)
- [Wingham Seventh-day Adventist Church](#)

Smaller gift card grants also supported local agencies including 4Life Care & Training, Catholic Care - Taree, Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre, New Horizons Group - Kempsey, and Taree West Public School — helping get essential supplies to families navigating severe hardship after the floods.

Thanks to Coles' support, we have been able to get vital food relief into communities when they most needed it.



Southlake's Incorporated
★ Favourites · 12 June at 09:12 · 🌐

Floods 2025 - local impact
We love feedback!!

[Origin Energy](#) (Eraring Power Station) reached out to us and asked how best to help their community with the recent floods.

They donated the money to purchase 30 x \$150 Woolies gift vouchers.

Here is some feedback we have received from the 30 people so far:

Received our \$150 voucher today. Thank you so much. We have a 2 story house and our ground level was flooded. We lost everything in our kitchen, lounge room and bedroom, Thank you for caring about us locals

I just wanted to say thank you so much for putting me on the list. I've picked up now and it will be the biggest help for my family so thank you very very much

Just picked up the gift card and wanted to say a massive thank you and for always looking out for our community. We see you and we appreciate you

Thank you Thank you Thank you. We lost everything but atleast I can feed the kids for a few nights

We have never been through anything like this before so its great knowing you are here to help in times like this,

I always say it.. we are stronger together... thankyou Origin Energy

👍👍👍 You and 24 others

3 shares

👤 Angry 💬 Comment 📄 Copy ➦ Share

LABOUR - PAID OR OTHERWISE

CEOs, marketing, tech

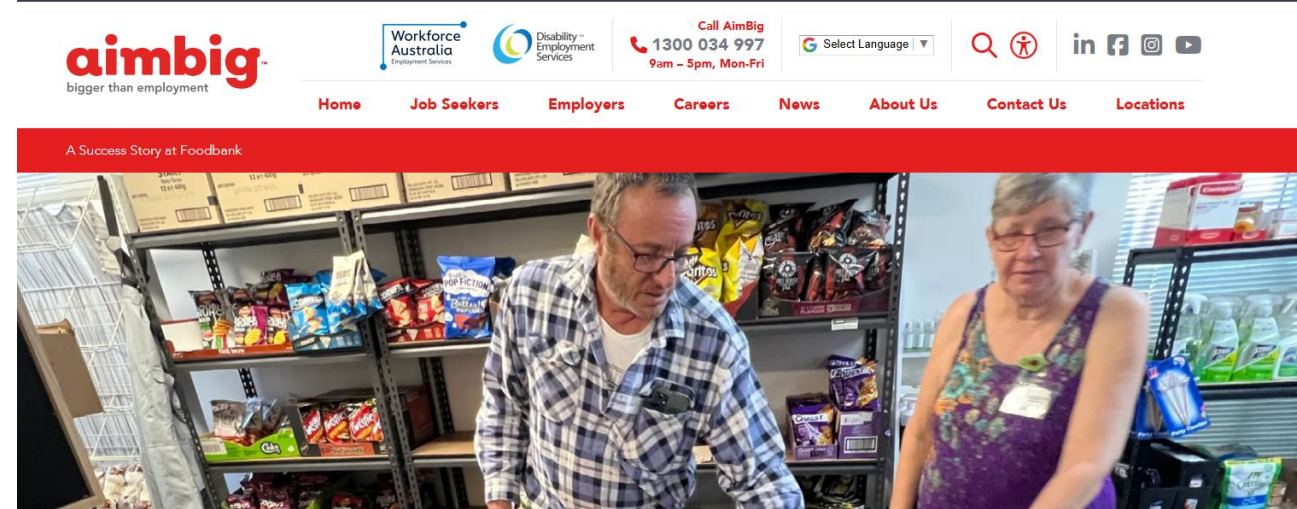
Volunteer hours

Transport

Work for the dole

Supported Volunteers - NDIS Costs of
their support staff

<https://www.aimbigemployment.com.au/news/a-success-story-at-foodbank/>



John's initial involvement with Foodbank began nine months ago as part of the WFD program. His commitment and enthusiasm quickly became evident, and he soon transitioned from a participant to a crucial volunteer. Under the guidance of his job coach, Laura Hanbridge from AimBig's Mackay office, John's skills and reliability have made a significant impact at Foodbank.

During a recent visit to Foodbank on August 2nd, Laura spoke with John and Christine Hayes, the manager at Foodbank. Christine had nothing but praise for John, stating, "John is my right-hand man. I rely on him, and this business would not operate without his support and assistance." This acknowledgment speaks volumes about John's dedication and the value he brings to the organisation.

John's role as a supervisor has him involved in all aspects of the operation. He helps manage the influx of donations, ensuring that every contribution is used effectively. Whether it's distributing food to customers or finding alternative uses for items that can't be consumed, John plays a pivotal role in keeping the operation running smoothly.

As Foodbank continues to grow, John and Christine have expressed the need for additional support. "We are quite literally running out of room; we need a bigger shop," John shared. The organisation is actively seeking more donations, including essential items like flour, milk, and frozen goods, to keep up with the increasing demand.

John's journey from a WFD participant to a key figure at Foodbank is a testament to his hard work and the support he received from AimBig Employment. His voluntary work, now spanning five days a week, is making a tangible difference in the community, and his story serves as an inspiration to others.

Foodbank Mackay continues to rely on the generosity of donors and the dedication of volunteers like John. As they seek to expand their operations, the need for financial support and resources is greater than ever. By sharing John's success story, we hope to raise awareness and garner the support Foodbank needs to continue its vital work.

RENT

The Federal Government has made an election commitment to help one of Lake Macquarie's key welfare organisations.

Member for Shortland, Pat Conroy has today announced a \$2.8 million grant would be given to Survivors R Us in Cardiff if Labor is re-elected, following a visit alongside Member for Wallsend, Sonia Hornery to the service celebrating their 8th anniversary.

The not-for-profit provides essential support for victims and survivors of domestic violence, homelessness and unemployment including counselling, a food warehouse and ensures its clients have access to life's basics when times are tough.

The cash would go towards assisting the organisation to purchase the site, providing a secure home for this important local service after an increase in rent saw the Charity's accommodation placed at risk.

2hd.com.au/articles/survivors-r-us-cardiff-election-commitment/



Warehouse sites at capacity limiting the total volume of produce able to be stored and distributed.

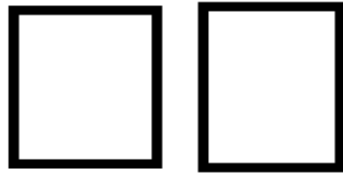
TRANSPORT AND FOOTPRINT



Bikkies are made



woolise purchases 2 containers worth



They ship those containers to local ww dist warehouses

From there, pallets of bikkies are sent to stores, some remain in the dist centre



Bikkies aren't selling at price, so they get put on sale and they move a little quicker but not enough to need to get more from the local dist

