

# Relieving Food Insecurity

Poor nutrition, obesity, chronic disease, and low life expectancy are all linked to poverty.<sup>1</sup> In Tasmania, we have the nation's highest chronic disease burden<sup>2</sup> and life expectancy is lower than the national average.<sup>3</sup> The Heart Foundation has identified 'food deserts' in Tasmania, where entire communities are denied access to fresh, healthy food.<sup>4</sup>

## Food Relief Programs

Between 2022 and 2023, food insecurity in Tasmania increased from 28% to 36%.<sup>5</sup> In 2023 56% of food insecure households across Australia didn't receive any help.<sup>6</sup>

**We will fight for an additional \$3 million per year for food relief programs like those delivered by *Loaves and Fishes* and *Foodbank*.**

## Food Hubs and Social Enterprise

42% of University of Tasmania students face food insecurity.<sup>7</sup>

Tasmanian University Student Association's (TUSA) food hub project has distributed in excess of 270 kg of donated and rescued food to students through their food hub project. 93% of participants have indicated it has a positive impact on their level of food security.<sup>8</sup>

TUSA has plans to expand their Sandy Bay food hub project to Inveresk, Cradle Coast, Hobart, and Rozelle, as well as their *Food Education and Preservation Project* and the establishment of a social enterprise café in the Sandy Bay campus.

**We will fight for funding for five food hubs, expending the Food Education and Preservation Project, and a social enterprise café in the sandy bay campus.**

## Neighbourhood Houses

Neighbourhood houses are an important, local distribution node for food security programs. Each week, there are 4,373 visits to these houses to get food, and over 6,500 kg of food is distributed.<sup>9</sup>

Neighbourhood houses have typically had to rely on short term grants for their food security programs.<sup>10</sup>

**We will fight for ongoing funding to neighbourhood houses to support their cost of living initiatives, including food security programs.**

## Budget (\$m)

	(\$m)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
Food Relief		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
Food Hubs		0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	1.92
Neighbourhood Houses		1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	7.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>5.23</b>	<b>5.23</b>	<b>5.23</b>	<b>5.23</b>	<b>20.92</b>

**FIND ALL OUR POLICIES:** [tasgreensmps.org/policy/](https://tasgreensmps.org/policy/)

<sup>1</sup> Czapp, P and Kovach, K, [Poverty and Health - The Family Medicine Perspective \(Position Paper\)](#), AAAP, n.d.

<sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, [National Health Survey: First results](#), cat. 4364.0.55.001, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Life tables](#), cat. 3302.0.55.001, 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Elston, R, [From fine dining to food deserts: Tasmania's food paradox](#), SBS News, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Foodbank, [Hunger Report](#), 2023.

<sup>6</sup> [Foodbank Hunger Report 2023](#), 2023.

<sup>7</sup> Tasmanian University Student Association, [Increasing food security for University of Tasmania \(UTAS\) students](#), 2024.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania, [Annual report 2022-23](#), 2023.

<sup>10</sup> Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania, [Creating Community Food Security through Neighbourhood Houses](#), 2023.