

Problems, policy and politics - perspectives of public health leaders on food insecurity and human rights in Australia



Australia needs to undertake more effective action on food insecurity to achieve the United Nations 2030 Zero hunger targets.



Household food insecurity ranges between 4-18% in Australia. There are a variety of people vulnerable to food insecurity such as people with low incomes and single parent families.

Current responses fail to address determinants to food insecurity such as:



Insecure housing



Insecure employment



Access to healthy food



Access to enough food



Research Question:

We wanted to know whether a human rights-based approach to food security will be useful in Australia?

Public health leaders suggested these actions to advance the right to food:



Human rights language and its approach to food insecurity is appropriate for certain environments but a more palatable term should be used for maximum engagement.

Research & tertiary sector

- Embed human rights in tertiary curriculum
- Monitor food insecurity



Food Industry

- Minimise market-driven approach
- Reduce junk food advertising and sports promotion



Government

- Alternative, affordable food systems
- Develop a National Food Plan



Not-for-profit sector

- Ensure voices of community are represented
- Develop surplus food donation guidelines



Even without a right to food law, rights-based approaches can be achieved in Australia.



Citizens

- Support community-based food programs
- Hold government accountable



Legal institutions

- Advocate and enforce human rights approach to food
- Integrate constitutional rights



Other Actors

- Utilise the media to convey human rights-based approach
- Schools to ensure access to nutritious foods

