



Food Community project: *Outcomes Report* **2022-25**



For more information:



foodcommunity@ecu.edu.au



[@ecufoodcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/ecufoodcommunity)



www.foodcommunity.com.au

Food Community Project Launches:

Throughout 2022, the Food Community team travelled to the Wheatbelt, Midwest, Great Southern, Kimberley, Pilbara, and Goldfields to launch the project in each participating region. At the launch event, attendees were provided with background information about the project and brainstormed all the initiatives they knew of that were supporting food security in their region. Launch attendees also worked together to develop a vision for a food secure region (see the following page for further information about this activity). The below images are from each launch event:



**Wheatbelt Food Community
project launch**



**Midwest Food Community
project launch**



**Great Southern Food Community
project launch**



**Kimberley Food Community
project launch**



**Pilbara Food Community
project launch**



**Goldfields Food Community
project launch**

Regional Visions for Food Security:

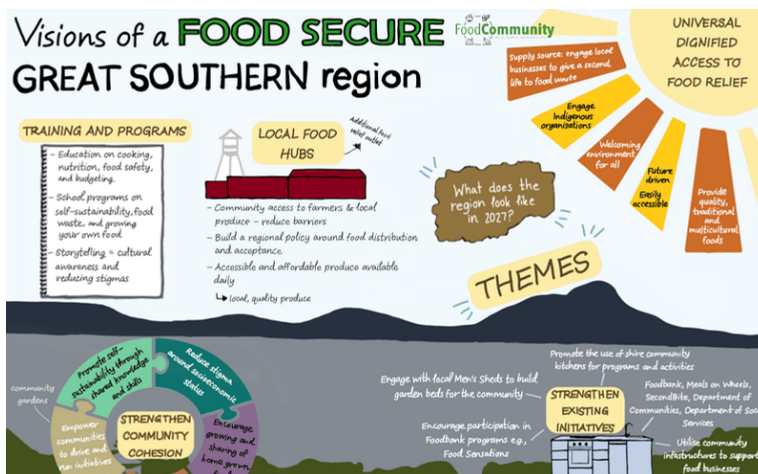
At each project launch, attendees worked in small groups to articulate their vision for a food secure region by 2027, recording their ideas on butchers' paper. From this brainstorm, the following graphic recordings were created for each region to reflect the shared vision:



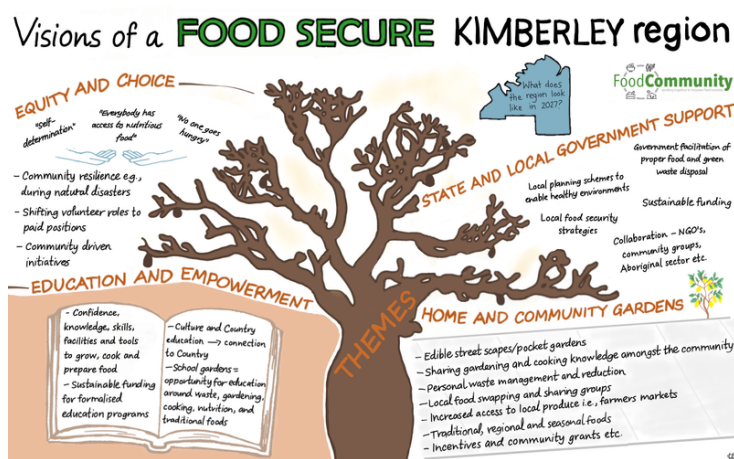
Wheatbelt Vision Board



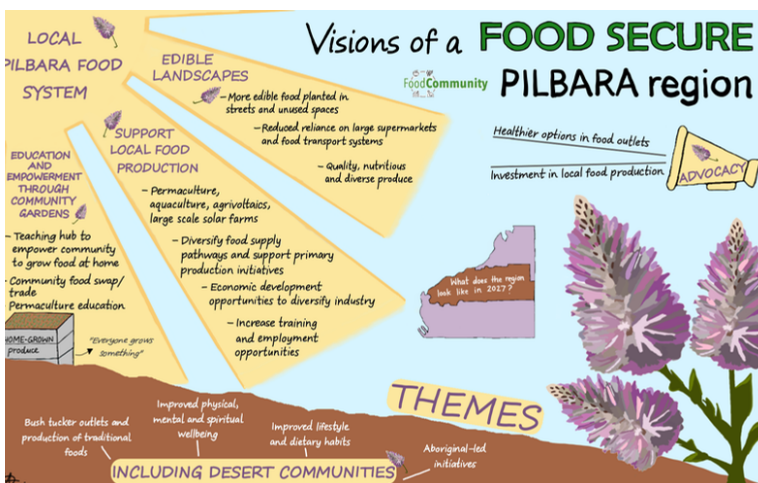
Midwest Vision Board



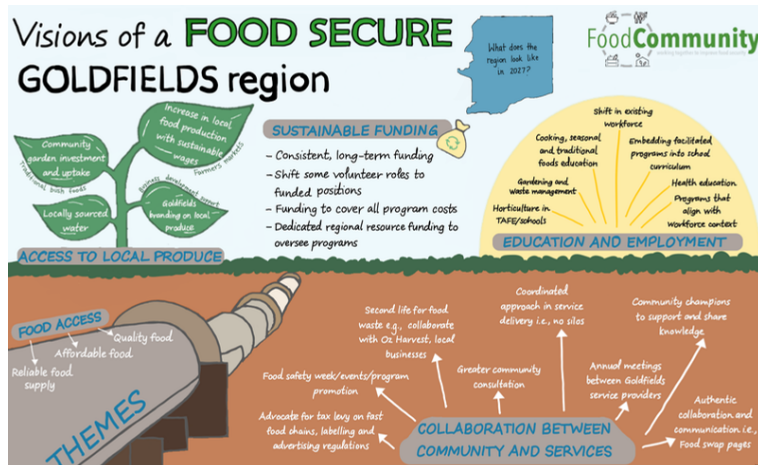
Great Southern Vision Board



Kimberley Vision Board



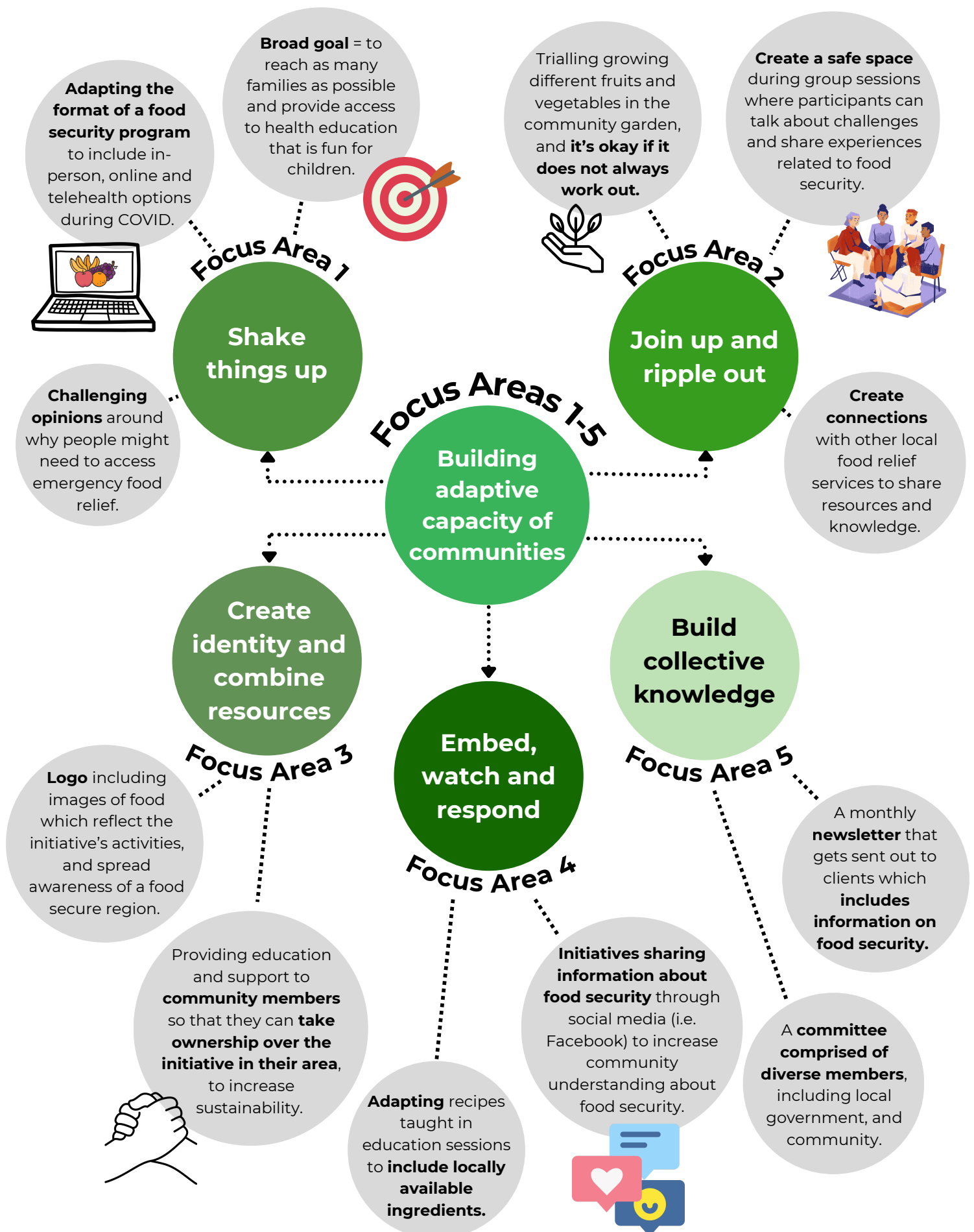
Pilbara Vision Board

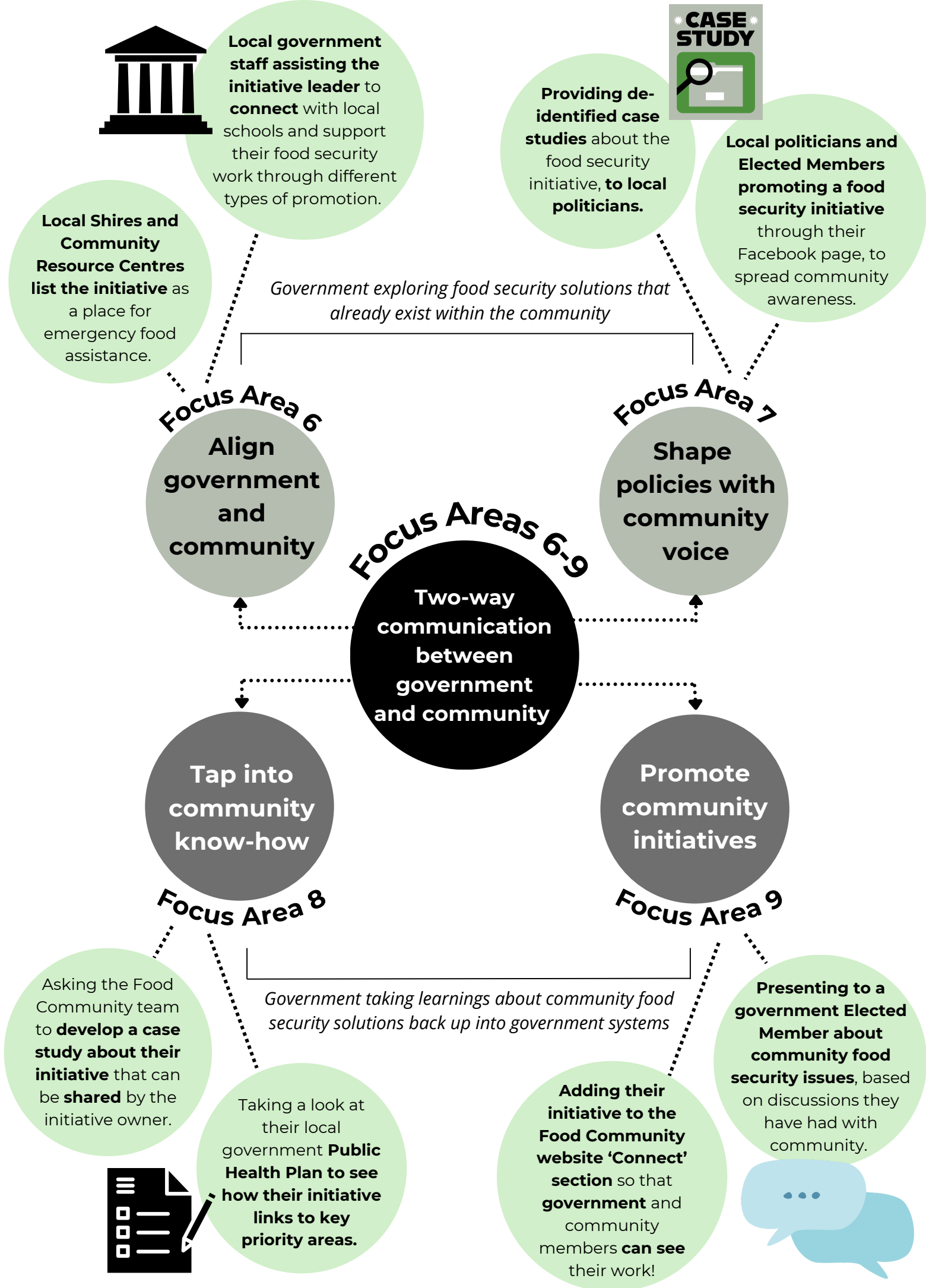


Goldfields Vision Board

How Initiatives Addressed Each Focus Area:

Throughout 2022-23, the Food Community team conducted 94 interviews with 101 government and community-led food security initiatives leaders across regional Western Australia to understand whether and how the initiatives were contributing to food security systems change and identify the 'windows of opportunity' where initiatives could be strengthened. Based on these interviews, the Food Community team determined the following examples of how organisations are embedding systems change into practice:





Food Community Results-Sharing and Action Planning Workshops

Throughout 2023, the Food Community team travelled back to the Wheatbelt, Midwest, Great Southern, Kimberley, Pilbara, and Goldfields regions to hold the results-sharing and action-planning workshops. During these workshops, the Food Community team shared insights from the interviews, including food security systems change activities and partnerships across the regions, and undertook step-by-step co-designed action planning tailored to each regions ‘windows of opportunity’. Attendees walked away with a co-designed action plan to strengthen their food security initiative. The below images are from each results-sharing and action-planning workshop:



**Wheatbelt Food Community
Results-Sharing and Action Planning Workshop**



**Midwest Food Community
Results-Sharing and Action Planning Workshop**



**Great Southern Food Community
Results-Sharing and Action Planning Workshop**



**Kimberley Food Community
Results-Sharing and Action Planning Workshop**



**Pilbara Food Community
Results-Sharing and Action Planning Workshop**



**Goldfields Food Community
Results-Sharing and Action Planning Workshop**

Types of Actions Co-Designed and Implemented by Initiatives:

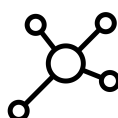
Six-months after the action plans were co-designed with food security initiative leaders, follow-up interviews were conducted to understand which actions had been implemented. Twenty-seven action plans were developed, containing 244 actions, with 28 actions implemented so far. Food security initiative leaders who participated in the follow-up interviews were most likely to implement actions that required fewer resources and could leverage existing activities in comparison to actions that required collaborating and engaging with government representatives. Example co-designed actions featured in the action plans include:

Focus Area 3

Create identity and combine resources



Increase program awareness through branding.



Promote and connect with other local food security initiatives



Include food security as a topic for discussion

Focus Area 5

Build collective knowledge



Develop a position statement on food security



Document key discussion and ideas related to food security



Share food security information with existing client base

Focus Area 6

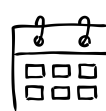
Align government and community



Contact the local government to feature their initiative



Collaborate with local governments on Public Health Planning



Include food security as a discussion topic in networking group meeting

Focus Area 7

Shape policies with community voice



Include food security as a discussion topic in networking group meetings



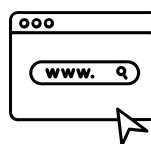
Engage in discussion with local Elected Members about food security and community needs

Focus Area 8

Tap into community know-how



Develop formal presentations about their initiative for a local government audience



Update the information about their initiative on the Food Community website

Focus Area 9

Promote community initiatives



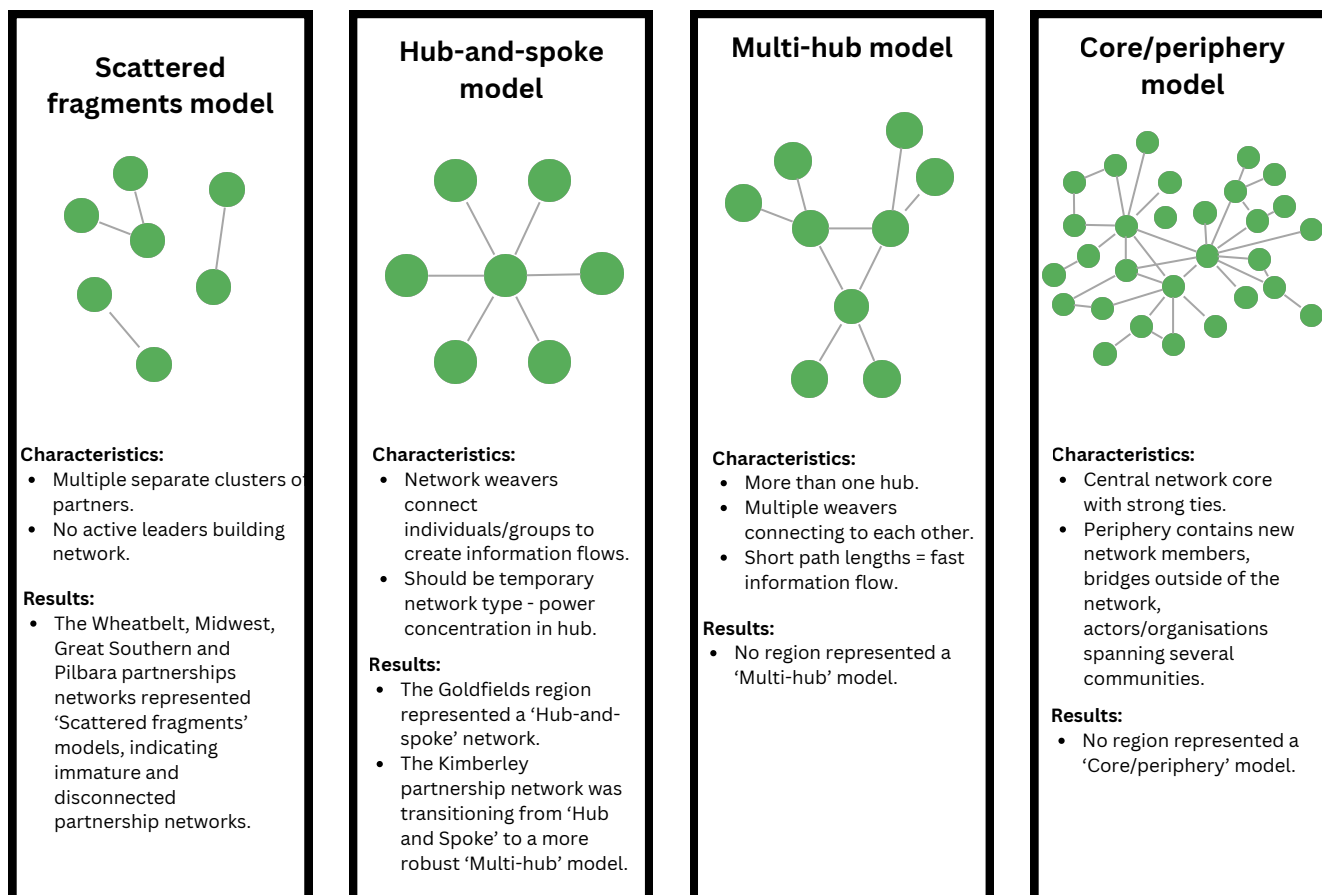
Advocate for the collection of necessary and relevant health data



Develop tailored reports for Elected Representatives that highlight community perspectives

Regional Food Security Partnerships

The Food Community team undertook a social network analysis to visualise how organisations across rural, regional and remote Western Australia were working in partnership to support food security systems change and identify where these partnerships could be strengthened. The following image outlines each regions' network typology category:



See: Godrich, S. L., Chiera, I., Stoneham, M., Doe, J., Devine, A., & Humphreys, E. (2026). Using Social Network Analysis to Visualise Place-Based Partnerships for Systems Change in Regional Australia. *Health Promotion Journal of Australia*, 37(2), e70150. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hpja.70150>

The Food Community team also undertook a qualitative analysis to understand and describe the ways in which rural, regional and remote organisations were working in partnership to support food security action across the Western Australian regions. Participating food security initiatives partnered with other organisations in the following ways to support food security:

Collaboration, coordinated action and capacity building



Initiatives responded to local community issues; joint action plans created; increased reach of services.

On-ground program and service delivery



Collaboration with other local organisations to ensure program messaging was consistent and culturally appropriate.

Physical and human resources



Volunteers and staff partnered for crises response; buildings and facilities shared.

Community consultation and involvement



Initiative clients at the heart of program design.

Food and financial donations



Partnerships with large charities, businesses and supermarkets for food donations.

Funding and grants for program delivery



Multiple grants needed concurrently to cover programmatic work.

The Food Community Knowledge Hub - Example Resources:

The Food Community team has translated project information in a variety of visual and practical ways. Reports were provided throughout the project stages, to provide learnings as we progressed the project. Fact sheets and other resources like visual food access maps were created upon request, demonstrating the team's ability to respond to community need in a timely manner to maximise how the learnings were being taken up by the community. The initiative directory has been particularly popular and, to our knowledge, is the most comprehensive food security initiative directory in Western Australia.

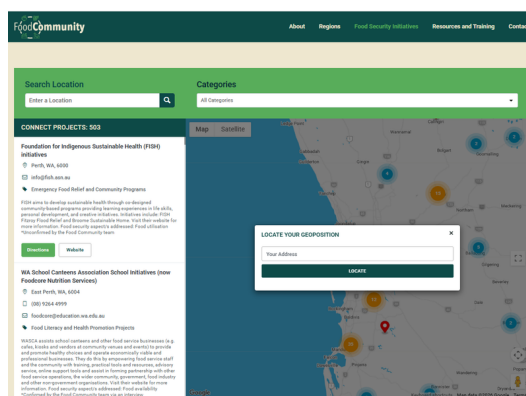
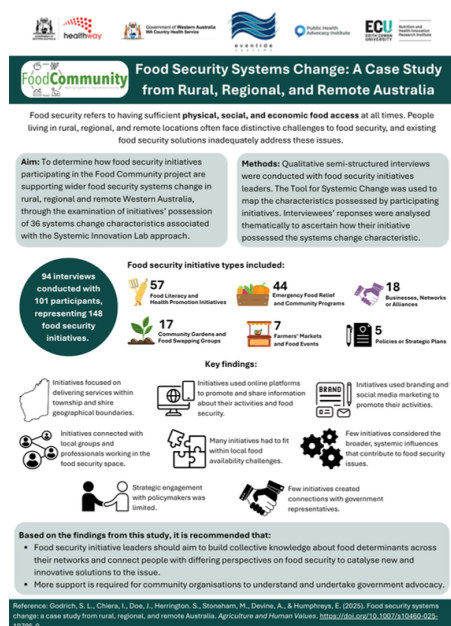


6x Share Stage Reports:
Goldfields, Great Southern,
Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara,
Wheatbelt

6x Snapshot Reports:
Goldfields, Great Southern,
Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara,
Wheatbelt

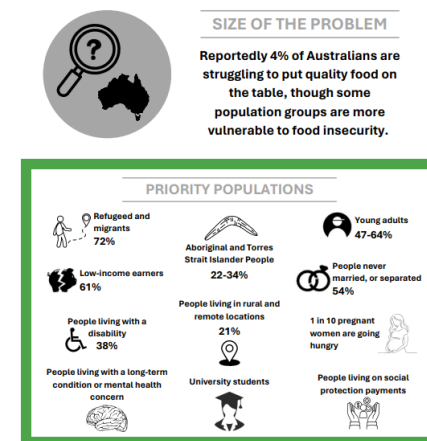


46 case studies showcasing
food security initiatives,
across six categories, from
all Western Australian
regions



**503 food security
initiatives listed on the
Initiative Directory**

Food insecurity in Australia: Is it a problem, and for whom?



12x infographics

11x fact sheets

Regional Snapshot Reports

A snapshot report has been developed for each region. These reports outline region-based findings, detailing the different types of food security initiatives operating within the region. They provide a summary of how initiatives are contributing to food security systems change, and how they are working in partnership to deliver their food security initiatives. Based on these findings, region-based recommendations are provided to support the current food security system to shift towards a more effective way of working and strengthen the partnership networks.

FoodCommunity 2023 project cycle no.1

Great Southern Food Community: Snapshot Report



Great Southern region Socio-Ecological Model of food security initiatives: Levels of intervention

The social-ecological model shows the different levels of intervention that these initiatives are focusing on. For example:

- The individual level focuses on knowledge, skills or attitudes of individual clients or people that they are working directly with.
- The interpersonal level focuses on relationships between family or social networks.
- The community level focuses on the community as a whole.
- The public policy level focuses on government policy and legislation.

Ways that Great Southern region organisations are working in partnership

Examples from initiatives across the Great Southern region:

- Collaboration, coordinated action and capacity building [19]**
Partnerships included formal and informal collaboration between different organisations. For example:
 - Some initiatives partnered with specific people in their region to draw on their unique skills.
 - Initiatives described partnering with the local government, the community, or other organisations.
- Food and financial donations [19]**
Several food relief initiatives received food donations from other organisations, local businesses and supermarkets. For example:
 - A food relief initiative received a budget from their own organisation which they could allocate to food resources for the needs of their local community.
 - Some initiatives had partnerships with local businesses to provide yearly financial donations to cover daily running costs.
- On-ground program and service delivery [19]**
Initiatives joined to support on-ground program delivery. For example:
 - A food relief initiative partnered with a local community legal service where they referred clients to one another based on their needs.
 - An initiative establishing a local working group made up of various industry representatives such as local government and schools, to support the implementation of a community plan.

Great Southern Food Community Snapshot

We need good quality food, in sufficient amounts, to meet our dietary needs. Regular physical, social and economic access to healthy food is called **food security** [1].

A snapshot of the Great Southern region demographics

A population of **61,400** people [2].

39,007 square kilometres [2].

13 local government authorities [2].

Employment status [15]

53.3% Worked full-time	45.6% English
35.8% Worked part-time	9.9% Scottish
7.1% Away from work	3.8%
3.8% Unemployed	

How Great Southern region initiatives are contributing towards food security systems change

Example activity: Geographically, the initiative works across four Great Southern Shires.

Example activity: The initiative provides emergency food relief to clients who present to one of their office locations across the region.

Example activity: Focused on developing partnerships with local health professionals, schools and organisations to support program delivery.

Focus Areas

- Focus Area 1: Shake things up**
Organise and coordinate local initiatives.
- Focus Area 2: Join up and ripple out**
Create connections with other food security initiatives.
- Focus Area 3: Create identity and combine resources**
Develop a shared identity and combine resources.
- Focus Area 4: Build collective knowledge**
Using technology to understand and share information about food security.
- Focus Area 5: Embed, watch and respond**
Using monitoring and evaluation to track progress.

New initiative ideas and actions for the Great Southern region

Community and interest holder ideas for new initiatives and actions needed in the Great Southern region to better support food security systems change [20].

- Community food storage**: Community fridge spaces provided by larger organisations.
- Local food co-operative**: Local food co-operative that gather excess food to be boxed and distributed.
- Food redistribution**: Collect food that supermarkets are about to throw out and have a market for local residents to purchase for a donation.
- Food vouchers**: Supermarket vouchers for people with dietary needs.
- Farm gate map**: Include information on healthy food policies and who to advocate for on a food security plan.
- Better public transport to farmers' markets**: Community bus collect and deliver food as well as taking residents food shopping.
- Food security network and platform**: Create a Great Southern Food Security Network.
- Teaching people basic skills to develop a home vegetable garden**: Teaching people basic skills to develop a home vegetable garden.
- Public transport**: Incorporating high school education resources into existing programs.
- Community gardens and food growing education**: Training in how to share food, donate to food charities - encompassing food safety.
- Awareness of what processed foods are**: Nutrition education and cooking skills programs.
- Supermarket tours, budgeting, food literacy and cooking classes for all ages**: Supermarket tours, budgeting, food literacy and cooking classes for all ages.

Great Southern region food problems in 2023

Community and interest holder perceptions of Great Southern region food problems [16].

Many residents of Low Socio-economic Status, available food of low quality.

Low food literacy: knowing how to cook.

Culturally appropriate food (e.g. halal) lacking.

No dignified access to food relief.

Support for local growers lacking (e.g. subsidies).

Limited knowledge of recyclable materials.

The COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather events etc. led to food shortages and panic buying.

How are existing initiatives supporting regional food security in 2023** [17]

22 Addressing Food Availability	13 confirmed via an interview
36 Addressing Food Access	28 confirmed via an interview
18 Addressing Food Utilisation	10 confirmed via an interview
1 Addressing Stability	1 confirmed via an interview
1 Addressing Agency	1 confirmed via an interview
6 Addressing Sustainability	4 confirmed via an interview

Great Southern region response to food security issues in 2023** [17]

21 Emergency Food Relief and Community Programs	9 explored via an interview
11 Food Literacy and Health Promotion Initiatives	7 explored via an interview
9 Community Food Sheds	7 explored via an interview

Types of partnering organisations in the Great Southern region in 2023 [18]

36 Non-government or Not-for-Profit Organisations	17 Businesses
8 State Government	5 Community Group
4 Federal Government	2 Education
	4 Local Government
	1 Social Enterprise

Recommendations from the Food Community project findings

Recommendations to support the current food security system to shift towards a more effective way of working [17]:

- Great Southern food security initiative leaders could strengthen their food security impact by enhancing Focus Area 7 attributes, such as in the following ways:
 - Engaging government representatives in program activities or speaking with them about their food initiative, to increase their understanding of how it supports food security.
 - Sharing community member views about food security with government representatives.
 - Supporting government representatives to talk about food security in a way that community members can understand and use.
 - Undertaking government advocacy, to get food security on their agenda and actioned.
- Great Southern food security initiative leaders could strengthen their food security impact by enhancing Focus Area 9 attributes, such as in the following ways:
 - Advocating to local, state or federal government about addressing food security.
 - Ensuring their initiative is listed on the Food Community website 'Connect' section - as a project register relevant to the local government area.
 - Food security initiatives should consider the 'big picture' of food security including broader political, social, technological, economic, national and international forces that affect local food security efforts) when sharing information with their networks and undertaking food security activities.
 - Seeking better collaborations between government and community organisations.
- WA regions' partnership networks [17]:
 - Partnerships should identify and document (through adaptable formal agreements) clear partnership purposes, roles, and actions.
 - Four interconnected organisations should be supported to connect their partnership opportunities e.g. the Food Community website.
 - Partnership opportunities should be supported to connect across the region network should be supported to shift across the region.
 - Partnerships should be supported to connect across the region by connecting organisations, increasing collaboration on projects, bringing in new organisations, and implementing information.

Based on interviews with initiative leaders, the Food Community team have developed a series of case studies to showcase the work these initiatives are doing to support food security across the Western Australian regions. Each case study features an overview of the food security initiative, outlines the organisations the initiative partners with to deliver their services, and defines how the initiative is supporting regional food security by depicting which dimensions of food security are being addressed by the initiative. Below are select examples of case studies and more can be viewed on the [Food Community website](#):

 **Food Community**

FOOD SECURITY ASPECTS ADDRESSED

FOOD AVAILABILITY, FOOD ACCESS, FOOD UTILISATION

RAINBOW COAST NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE: COMMUNITY GARDEN, GARDEN GRUBS PROGRAM, SWAP AND SHARE CASE STUDY

REGION LOCATION: GREAT SOUTHERN

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

The Rainbow Coast Neighbourhood Centre is an organisation that undertakes a range of place-based, local initiatives including the Community Garden, Swap and Share and the Garden Grubs Program. The Community Garden provides opportunity for community to come together and learn about environmental sustainability, through workshops and hands-on learning. Swap and Share runs on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Community members can swap excess produce, seeds, cuttings and recipes. Additionally, Garden Grubs Program, encourages regular use of the Community Garden and teaches children to grow food and prepare seasonal food through cooking sessions. It also incorporates outdoor garden play, as well as arts and craft using recycled materials. The overall aim of the organisation is to support community skills development and personal and community resilience.

REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS

The Community Garden and Swap and Share program promotes the availability and access of local food within the community. The Community Garden workshops and the Garden Grubs program fosters gardening, food knowledge and preparation skills. Overall, the organisation promotes community connection and promotes local grow food with an aim to help Abanaki become a more food secure and resilient township. Additionally, where possible, the organisation's goals are aligned with local government strategic plans, namely aligning with environmental objectives with strategic plan.

PARTNERING ORGANISATIONS

Local government provided the land for the Community Garden and is a key partner of the initiative. The Community Garden also played a role in the establishment of the Great Southern Permaculture group, which led to the formation of other initiatives like Great Southern Seed Savers. Additionally, the TAFE's horticulture and permaculture development collaborates with Rainbow Coast Neighbourhood Centre, involving their students in activities at the Community Garden.



“[A] Rainbow Coast Neighbourhood Centre, we maintain a everyone's welcome, inclusive philosophy as all our programs.”

Find out more at: www.rainbowcoast.org.au

FoodCommunity

FOOD AVAILABILITY, FOOD ACCESS, FOOD UTILISATION

EON Foundation School Gardens CASE STUDY

REGION LOCATIONS: MIDWEST, KEMBERLY

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

The initiative is a hands-on edible garden and nutrition program that partners with community organisations to support employment, training, and nutrition-based education. The focus of the initiative is to empower communities and individuals to take an active role in combating food insecurity and growing food within their own areas. Through the program, they provide nutrition education and skills training within an edible garden space, aiming to create generational change in health behaviours. The initiative utilizes co-designing solutions with the communities they work with and emphasises the importance of building strong community relationships. This empowers communities by contributing to grow local and vegetables. They also strive to enhance long-term sustainability by enabling residents and actively building within the communities they work with, enabling them to maintain and continue the program's impact.

REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS

The initiative plays a significant aspect on health, well-being and nutrition through the provision of knowledge, resources, and spaces for community members to enhance their local food production. Through cooking workshops and garden visits, participants are encouraged to incorporate fresh herbs and locally-grown fresh and affordable produce into their meals.

PARTNERING ORGANISATIONS

The initiative partners with various organisations to maximise its impact and reach. They actively collaborate with Aboriginal communities, community development programs, women's groups, and parent programs. These partnerships allow for a broader network of support, complementing the existing efforts of local organisations within the Midwest and Kimberley regions. By collaborating with other organisations, the initiative aims to amplify its outreach and create synergies by benefitting the communities they work with.

Find out more at: <https://eon.org.au/>



Food Community



FOOD SECURITY ASSURES ADDRESS
FOOD ACCESSIBILITY FOOD ACCESS FOOD ACCESSIBILITY

CITY OF KARRATHA PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN 2022-2027

CASE STUDY

REGION LOCATION: PILBARA

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

The City of Karratha Public Health Plan aims to improve the overall health and well-being of the community. This plan, which began in late 2022 and extends until 2027, focuses on three key priorities including: a healthy and livable environment, a healthy and livable environment and accessible health services, and the broader statewide Public Health Plan, and is supported by an extensive research and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and community members.



The City of Karratha Public Health Plan actively promotes healthy eating, food access and food services within the region. Example actions include the implementation of a healthy eating 'traffic light system' to enhance food options at city council sites and investigation into affordable healthy eating programs, workshops, and national incentives. Additionally, the initiative has developed grants to support projects that establish public open spaces and promote neighbourhood activities, including community gardens and farmers markets. Through this comprehensive approach the initiative addresses regional food security by fostering a variety of initiatives and partnerships, ultimately ensuring that the community has access to healthy and affordable food systems.

PARTNERING ORGANISATIONS

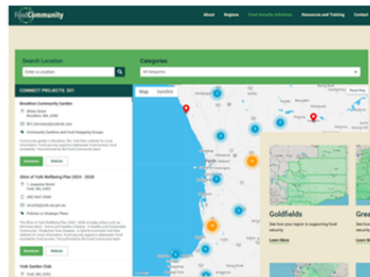
The initiative collaborates with a wide range of stakeholders, including the City Council Health Services (WACHS) Aboriginal health corporations such as Merrembarra Health Services, and various city departments including environmental health, technical services, and parks and gardens. The collaboration allows the initiative to lead action, initiate and sustain projects and/or advocate for health promoting activities within the community.

“One of the plan’s core aims is, and one of the ways we are truly flexible and intend to be as we adapt to the community that communities are not dynamic, they change from year to year.”

Food Community Knowledge Hub

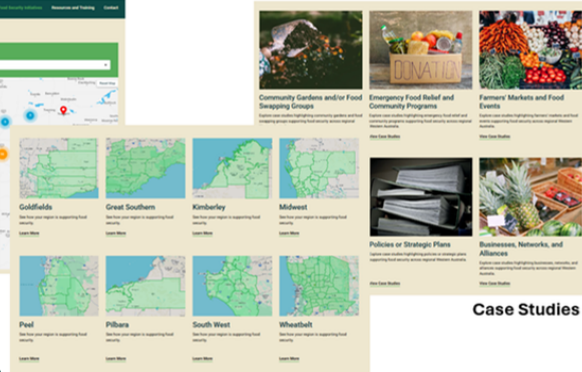
www.foodcommunity.com.au

Visions of a food secure region – by communities.



Initiative Directory

Map of existing food security initiatives



Case Studies

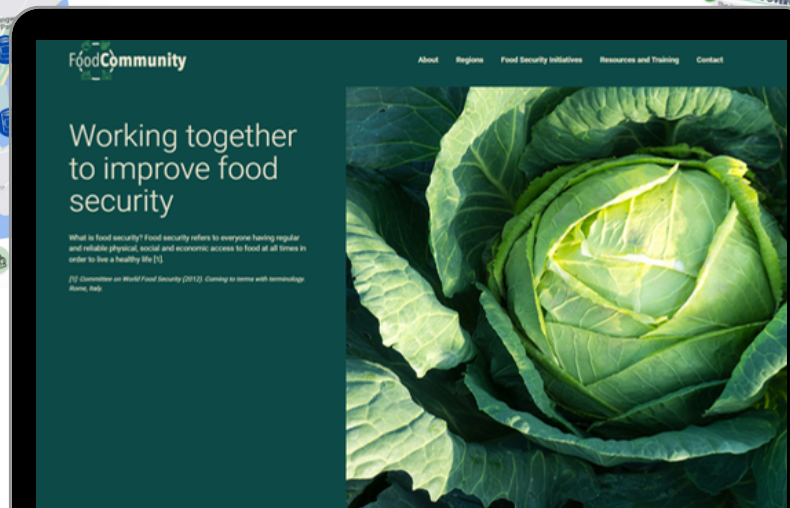
Regional Food Communities



Fact sheets, short reports, infographics, webinars, region-based data and case studies.



Maps showing location of food security initiatives – printed and shared with lower-literacy hospital inpatients ready for discharge, people sleeping rough, and at medical centre waiting rooms.





Policy Reach of the Food Community Project

PlumX Metrics



South West Food Community: how government and community initiatives are supporting systemic change towards enhanced food security

Citation Data: Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, ISSN: 1326-0200, Vol: 44, Issue: 2, Page: 129-136
Publication Year: 2020

Home
Overview
Highlights
Policy Citations

This article has 1 Policy Citation.

Committee Details - Inquiry
20 June 2022 | Western Australia Hansard by Western Australia Hansard
Read more >

Overton

Citation of the Food Community work in **WA Hansard**, with four findings and recommendations referring to Food Community



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Search this site GO

Go to whole of WA Government search

About us | Improving health in WA | Health for... | Our performance | Latest news | Reports & publications | Careers | Services search

Public health planning resources

Public health planning resources

To support local governments in public health planning, key documents and resources curated. This section will be updated regularly as new materials become available.

Please note, this collection is not exhaustive but serves as a foundational toolkit to assist in the public health planning process.

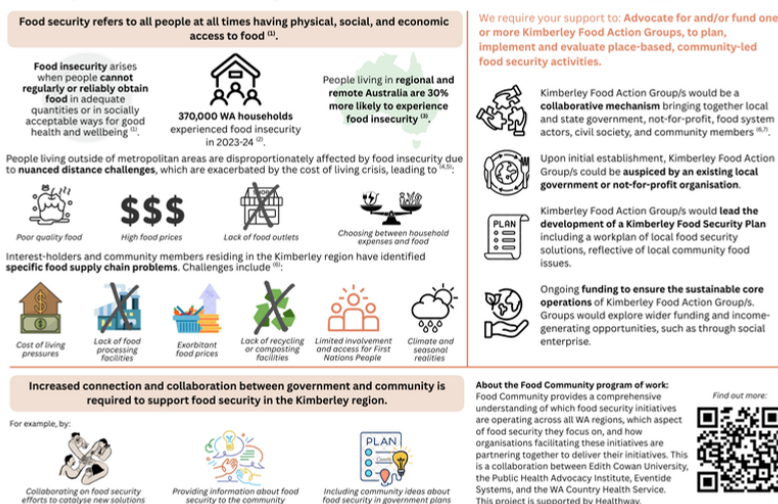
- What is local government's role in public health (external site)
 - This above video was developed in 2019 and remains relevant to several important components of public health planning but may not reflect the legislative requirements under the Public Health Act 2016.
 - Aboriginal health and wellbeing is a priority for WA Health. View the Journey of health and wellbeing (external site) to learn more about why an Aboriginal cultural lens must be applied to all aspects of public health, including local government public health planning, to address systemic racism and strengthen the cultural determinants of health for Aboriginal people in WA.

Related links

- Public health planning
- Local government public health plans
- Partnership opportunities for local government
- State Public Health Plan

Our **Public Health Plan development resource**, was selected to be listed on the Department of Health Public Health Planning website.

An urgent need for coordinated, placed-based, community-led food security action in the Kimberley



Food security refers to all people at all times having physical, social, and economic access to food ⁽¹⁾.

Food insecurity arises when people cannot regularly or reliably obtain food in adequate quantities or in socially acceptable ways for good health and wellbeing ⁽²⁾.

370,000 WA households experienced food insecurity in 2023-24 ⁽³⁾.

People living in regional and remote Australia are 30% more likely to experience food insecurity ⁽⁴⁾.

People living outside of metropolitan areas are disproportionately affected by food insecurity due to nuanced distance challenges, which are exacerbated by the cost of living crisis, leading to ⁽⁵⁾:

- Poor quality food
- High food prices
- Lack of food outlets
- Choosing between household expenses and food

Interest-holders and community members residing in the Kimberley region have identified specific food supply chain problems. Challenges include ⁽⁶⁾:

- Cost of living pressures
- Lack of food processing facilities
- Exorbitant food prices
- Lack of recycling or composting facilities
- Limited involvement and access for First Nations People
- Climate and seasonal realities

We require your support to: Advocate for and/or fund one or more Kimberley Food Action Groups, to plan, implement and evaluate place-based, community-led food security activities.

- Kimberley Food Action Groups would be a collaborative mechanism bringing together local and state government, not-for-profit, food system actors, civil society, and community members ⁽⁷⁾.
- Upon initial establishment, Kimberley Food Action Groups could be auspiced by an existing local government or not-for-profit organisation.
- Kimberley Food Action Groups would lead the development of a Kimberley Food Security Plan including a workplan of local food security solutions, reflective of local community food issues.
- Ongoing funding to ensure the sustainable core operations of Kimberley Food Action Groups. Groups would explore wider funding and income-generating opportunities, such as through social enterprise.

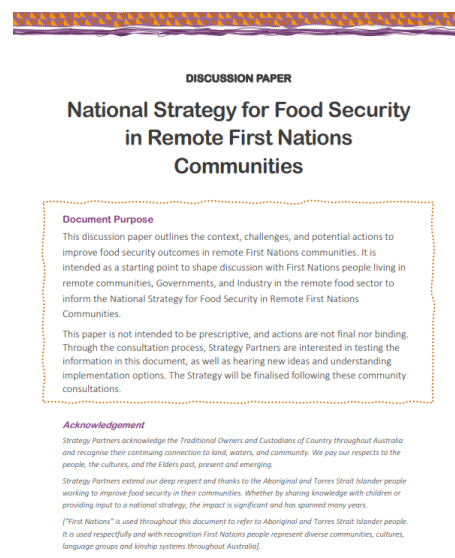
Increased connection and collaboration between government and community is required to support food security in the Kimberley region.

For example, by:

- Collaborating on food security efforts to catalyse new solutions
- Providing information about food security to the community
- Including community ideas about food security in government plans

About the Food Community program of work: Food Community provides a comprehensive understanding of which food security initiatives are operating across all WA regions, which aspect of food security they focus on, and how organisations facilitating these initiatives are partnering together to deliver their initiatives. This is a collaboration between Edith Cowan University, the Public Health Advocacy Institute, Everwide Systems, and the WA Country Health Service. This project is supported by Healthway.

Find out more:



DISCUSSION PAPER

National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities

Document Purpose

This discussion paper outlines the context, challenges, and potential actions to improve food security outcomes in remote First Nations communities. It is intended as a starting point to shape discussion with First Nations people living in remote communities, Governments, and Industry in the remote food sector to inform the National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities.

This paper is not intended to be prescriptive, and actions are not final nor binding. Through the consultation process, Strategy Partners are interested in testing the information in this document, as well as hearing new ideas and understanding implementation options. The Strategy will be finalised following these community consultations.

Acknowledgement

Strategy Partners acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures, and the Elders past, present and emerging.

Strategy Partners extend our deep respect and thanks to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working to improve food security in their communities. Whether by sharing knowledge with children or providing input to a national strategy, the impact is significant and has spanned many years.

["First Nations" is used throughout this document to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is used respectfully and with recognition First Nations people represent diverse communities, cultures, language groups and kinship systems throughout Australia.]

Policy briefs summarising Food Community work in each region, sent to every Regional Minister in WA, with four responses received.

Food Community case study used in **National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities discussion paper** (p.35).

Parliament of Western Australia

Home

The Legislative Assembly

Parliamentary Business Members About Parliament Get Involved Visit and Learn

State Parliamentary Business Current Parliamentary Committee Committee

Hungry for Change: Addressing food insecurity for children and young people affected by poverty

Report type: Report
Report no: 6
Physical location: State Law Publisher - Perth Western Australia
Presentation date: 06/22/2023

Inquiry name: Inquiry into the most effective ways for Western Australia to address food insecurity for children and young people affected by poverty

[Click here to view the report](#)
[Click here to view the Government's response to the report](#)

Edith Cowan University



Submission on inquiry into the most effective ways for Western Australia to address food insecurity for children and young people affected by poverty.

Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People

41ST PARLIAMENT

Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People

Report 6
HUNGRY FOR CHANGE
Addressing food insecurity for children and young people affected by poverty

Presented by Mrs R.M.J. Clarke, MLA and Hon N. Thomson, MLC
June 2023

Chapter 7

Finding 49 Page 132
Edith Cowan University's Food Community Project is conducting important work to understand the particular food security needs of regional communities.

Recommendation 13 Page 132
Relevant State Government agencies and representatives support the investigation of food hubs as a way to address food supply and distribution issues in remote and regional areas, in accordance with Food Community Project research and recommendations of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs *Report on food pricing and food security in remote Indigenous communities*.

Recommendation 14 Page 132
Local government authorities and State Government departments ensure that they are represented on any Food Policy Councils that are initiated in regional areas.

Market gardens and food hubs would reduce dependence on food transport

Upscaling of community gardens could mean DPIRD has a role to play. Food security researcher Dr Stephanie Godrich is leading the Food Community Project, a Healthway-funded venture to help people in different regions of the state identify and design projects to maximise local food security. In brainstorming sessions with participants about their vision for a food secure region, community gardens were a common feature – but they wanted to see them scaled up to market garden size.

Finding 49
Edith Cowan University's Food Community Project is conducting important work to understand the particular food security needs of regional communities.

Recommendation 13
Relevant State Government agencies and representatives support the investigation of food hubs as a way to address food supply and distribution issues in remote and regional areas, in accordance with Food Community Project research and recommendations of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs *Report on food pricing and food security in remote Indigenous communities*.

Food Policy Councils can help communities plan local food systems

Food Policy Councils are increasingly being used to facilitate participation in food system decision-making in Europe and North America, where they were having some 'amazing impacts' on building local food systems and increasing food system resilience.⁷⁵⁸ Membership usually includes government and non-government actors from agriculture, social justice, education and nutrition who try to get local food systems on the agenda and acted on by government, according to Dr Godrich.⁷⁵⁹

Forming a Food Policy Council was recommended by participants of the South West Food Community project in 2018, but there are currently no such councils in WA. Dr Godrich said the Food Community team's work over the next two years would include travelling around WA to understand whether communities would like to see these groups functioning here, who should be involved and which activities from other countries could be applied. The councils would provide a food governance mechanism to support the building of local and regional food systems.⁷⁶⁰

Recommendation 14
Local government authorities and State Government departments ensure that they are represented on any Food Policy Councils that are initiated in regional areas.

738 Submission 16, Food Ladder, pp. 2, 12.
739 Dr Stephanie Godrich, Edith Cowan University, *Transcript of Evidence*, 22 February 2023, p. 7.
740 Cecilia McConnell, A/Director General, Letter, 6 April 2023, p. 2.
741 *Ibid*.

ECU's submission to Parliamentary Inquiry 'Hungry for Change'. The final report includes mentions of Dr Godrich and the Food Community project throughout, including findings and recommendations.

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Parliament Calendar

HOME PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS SENATORS AND MEMBERS NEWS & EVENTS ABOUT PARLIAMENT

HOME / PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS / COMMITTEES / HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEES / FORMER HOUSE COMMITTEES / STANDING COMMITTEES

Inquiry into food security in Australia

Following a referral from the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator the Hon Murray Watt, on 26 October 2022 the House Standing Committee on Agriculture commenced an inquiry into food security in Australia.

The Committee invites interested persons and organisations to make a submission addressing the terms of reference by Friday, 9 December 2022. Information that may assist in preparing a submission to the Committee can be viewed here.

For further information about the inquiry or making a submission, please contact the committee secretariat.



Inquiry into food security in Australia

House Standing Committee on Agriculture

Introduction

Edith Cowan University (ECU)'s School of Medical and Health Sciences, School of Business and Law, and the Food Community project welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the federal inquiry. ECU offers tertiary education based on collaborative approaches and integrates interprofessional learning and practice. The 'Food security and food systems' research program spans topics from household food insecurity, local government facilitation of healthier food environments, research into food availability and distribution, and systemic change to drive food security action. ECU staff engage with community to strengthen the health workforce and increase the effectiveness of their research work. The *Food Community project* is a systemic change project that was created to identify, map, evaluate and strengthen the many initiatives that support food security in Western Australia (WA). ECU's School of Medical and Health Sciences, and Business and Law and Food Community project teams are interested in contributing a submission to this inquiry, given the team's research interests on this critical issue and the potential opportunities to address it. ECU's submission will focus on Terms of Reference 1, 3, and 4.

A western definition of food and nutrition security includes: 'all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to food of sufficient quantity and quality in terms of variety, diversity, nutrient content and safety to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, coupled with a sanitary environment, adequate health, education and care' [1]. In contrast, food security is the lack of regular and reliable access to nutritious food, and includes issues such as a lack of money to buy food [2]. Food security encompasses six dimensions: availability, access, utilisation, stability of the supply [3], agency, and sustainability [4]. Availability refers to effective food production and/or having food in hand to supply enough nutritious food. Food access refers to economic and physical resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. Food utilisation incorporates knowledge of basic nutrition and cooking skills, safely preparing food, and food preparation facilities. Stability refers to food access that is not disrupted, as exemplified by food supply that can withstand climatic or economic disasters, pandemics, or seasonal events [5]. Agency refers to an individual's empowerment to make decisions about what food they eat, and having their voice represented in food policy to support their food security. Human rights approaches support agency. Sustainability refers to agricultural practices that protect future ecosystems. Food production depends on soil, and Australia's soils should be regarded as national assets. Healthy foods depend upon healthy soils, and in this sense there is an inextricable link between food security and soil security [6]. These food systems and socio-economic aspects of food security are complemented by nutrition security, a focus on human health [1].

Prevalence of food insecurity in Australia
Nationally representative surveys have reported a food insecurity prevalence of approximately 4% across Australia [7]. Currently, food security monitoring is insufficient in the country. The Australian Bureau of Statistics includes one to two questions in national surveys, which are reported to underestimate the prevalence of the issue [8]. The collection of food security data for quantitative and qualitative research is imperative to understanding the true prevalence of the issue in this country. The 'US Item United States Department of Agriculture Household Food Security Survey Module' should be used in order to benchmark



Visions of a FOOD SECURE GREAT SOUTHERN region



Despite the expressed need for healthy, affordable, quality food, Australians on average spend 50% of their food budget on ultra-processed, energy-dense, nutrient-poor food [9]. The dietary intake of a majority (96%) of Australians is inconsistent with the Australian Dietary Guidelines [10]. High consumption of energy-dense, nutrient-poor food is associated with increased chronic disease rates. Food consumption is inequitable in Australia, people in low Socio-Economic Areas consume higher amounts of fast food and have higher rates of chronic disease, as compared to those living in higher Socio-Economic Areas. Food security has been associated with higher consumption of energy-dense, nutrient-poor food [11, 12], with research hypothesised including seeking lower-cost foods in a pre-ordered basis. Food costs, particularly in remote communities, are substantially high. Strategies such as transport and retail price subsidies would enable individual and community members to choose healthier food options, increasing welfare to above the poverty line would also facilitate higher consumption of nutrient-dense food, as evidenced by ACSSU research during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants reported substantially lower financial distress while foodbank use was implemented, with more 10% of respondents reporting choosing more fresh fruit and vegetables as a result of higher income, and not needing to skip meals [13].

Priorities populations are more susceptible to food security issues and consume poorer diets [14]. A National Food and Nutrition Hub Policy would contribute to addressing the increasing rates of non-communicable diseases, through actions which support the six dimensions of food security. The National Food and Nutrition Hub Policy should be informed by substantial existing work already undertaken [15]. The key principles should include (among others): food, nutrition and health; social equity; and environmental sustainability. The required multi-stakeholder approach would include intersectoral to increase food system sustainability, and promote increased consumption of food [16].

ECU/Food Community's submission to Parliamentary Inquiry into food security, in collaboration with Food Community interest holders.

Submission to Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia on Inquiry into energy, food and water security.

31 January 2025

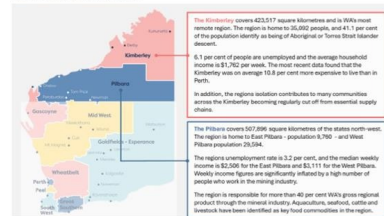
The Western Australian Council of Social Service Inc. (WACOSS) welcome the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia on the Inquiry into Energy, Food and Water Security.

WACOSS is the peak body for the community services sector in WA and works to create an inclusive, just and equitable society. We advocate for social and economic change to improve the wellbeing of Western Australians, and to strengthen the community services sector that supports them. WACOSS is part of a national network of Councils of Social Service.

We acknowledge the contributions of our members in preparing this submission, particularly the Food Community Project from Edith Cowan University.

Introduction

Northern WA - known for its pristine coastline, remote landscape, and booming natural resource sector - commonly refers to the Pilbara (East & West) and Kimberley regions of Western Australia (WA).¹ This area is vast, covering over 93,143 square kilometres, and is home to approximately 74,446 permanent residents. A high proportion of residents in Northern WA are Aboriginal.

Figure 1: Northern WA Regional Snapshot²

HOME / PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS / COMMITTEES / JOINT COMMITTEES / JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON NORTHERN AUSTRALIA / ENERGY, FOOD

Energy, food and water security

On the 21 August 2024, the Senate referred the Energy, food and water security inquiry to the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia with the Committee to present an interim report by 28 November 2024 and a final report by 29 May 2025.

The closing date for submissions is 31 January 2025.

Committee Secretariat contact:

Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Phone: +61 2 6277 3547
northernaustralia.jointaph.gov.au

The Food Community team contributed to the WACOSS submission for Inquiry into Energy, Food and Water Security.



Climate Health WA Inquiry

About your submission

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or group?

- ☒ No
☐ Yes

If yes, please identify the organisation:

Your contact details

The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.

First name: Stephanie
Surname: Godrich
Address: [Redacted]
Phone: [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]

Publication of submissions

Submissions will be published with the name of the submitter unless otherwise indicated below. Do you consent to be identified in the published submission?

- ☒ Yes, I / my organisation agree to be identified
☐ No, I / my organisation request to remain anonymous

Terms of Reference

You are encouraged to address at least ONE of the Terms of Reference as listed below. Please select which item/s you will address:

- ☐ 1. Establish current knowledge on the implications of climate change for health in Western Australia (WA) and recommend a framework for evaluating future implications.
☐ 2. Identify and recommend a program of work to manage the implications of climate change for health in WA, which will protect the public from the harmful health impacts of climate change.
☒ 3. Identify and recommend a program of work to manage the implications of climate change for health in WA, which will strengthen the preparedness and



Climate Health WA Inquiry: Final Report

Dr Tarun Weeramanthi

November 2020

Climate Health WA Inquiry, submission referring to Food Community's work.




National Food Security Strategy: discussion paper Response from SHARE (Solutions supporting Household Food Security in Australia through Research and Evidence)

Prepared by members:
Dr Sue Booth - Curtin University, WA
Professor Danielle Callegos - Queensland University of Technology, QLD
Dr Stephanie Goodrich - Edith Cowan University, WA
Dr Katherine Kertt - University of Wollongong, NSW
Dr Sue Kieve - Monash University, VIC
Dr Rebecca Lindberg - Deakin University, VIC
Sandra Murray - University of Tasmania, TAS
Professor Christina Pollard - Curtin University, WA
Dr Miriam Williams - Macquarie University, NSW

Acknowledged support by: Isabelle Chiera in response to question 4
Contact Dr Sue Kieve: suzanne.kieve@monash.edu

About SHARE

Solutions supporting Household Food Security in Australia through Research and Evidence (SHARE) is a collaboration of researchers from universities across Australia. Our vision is to:

- Advance and disseminate academic research and evidence to raise awareness of the extent of the problem of household food insecurity in Australia, and
- Determine how and advocate for effective policy and practice solutions of government and other agencies that can help to alleviate food insecurity for affected sectors of the population to improve health and well-being.

SHARE Collaboration aims to:

- Communicate knowledge, translate, and exchange evidence on food insecurity
- Foster connection, collaboration, and knowledge exchange between researchers, civil society organisations, and policy makers working on household food insecurity
- Coordinate world-class research that focuses on pathways out of food insecurity that helps to reduce the prevalence and severity of the experience in Australia.

The Food Community team contributed to the SHARE collaboration, WACOSS and Healthway submissions to the Feeding Australia, discussion paper for the National Food Security Strategy.