

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



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

**Food insecurity** arises when people **cannot regularly or reliably obtain food** in adequate quantities or in socially acceptable ways for good health and wellbeing <sup>(1)</sup>.



**370,000 WA households** experienced food insecurity in 2023-24 <sup>(2)</sup>.

People living in **regional and remote Australia** are **30% more likely to experience food insecurity** <sup>(3)</sup>.



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 <sup>(4,5)</sup>:



Poor quality food



High food prices



Lack of food outlets



Choosing between household expenses and food

Interest-holders and community members residing in the Great Southern region have identified **specific food supply chain problems**. Challenges include <sup>(6)</sup>:



Low quality food



Lack of food literacy skills



Limited knowledge on recycling

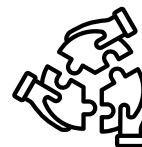


Minimal support for local growers

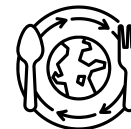


Lack of culturally appropriate foods or dignified food relief options

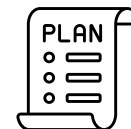
We require your support to: **Advocate for and/or fund one or more Great Southern Food Action Groups, to plan, implement and evaluate place-based, community-led food security activities.**



Great Southern Food Action Group/s would be a **collaborative mechanism** bringing together local and state government, not-for-profit, food system actors, civil society, and community members <sup>(6,7)</sup>.



Upon initial establishment, Great Southern Food Action Group/s could be **auspiced by an existing local government or not-for-profit organisation.**



Great Southern Food Action Group/s would **lead the development of a Great Southern 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 Great Southern Food Action Group/s. 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 Great Southern 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, Eventide Systems, and the WA Country Health Service. This project is supported by Healthway.

Find out more:



## References and further reading:

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3. Landrigan TJ, Kerr DA, Dhaliwal SS, Pollard CM. Protocol for the Development of a Food Stress Index to Identify Households Most at Risk of Food Insecurity in Western Australia. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2019;16(1):79.
4. Godrich SL, Lo J, Davies C, Darby J, Devine A. Prevalence and socio-demographic predictors of food insecurity among regional and remote Western Australian children. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*. 2017;41(6):585-90.
5. Teasdale N, Panegyres PK. Climate change in Western Australia and its impact on human health. *The Journal of Climate Change and Health*. 2023; 12:100243.
6. Godrich SL, Doe J, Goodwin S, Stoneham M, Devine A. Lived Experience of Regional and Remote Food Systems: Barriers to and Enablers of Food Access in Western Australia. *Health*
7. PLACE Australia. Pride in Place - 2025 Community Roadshow and Listening Tour Report. 2025.