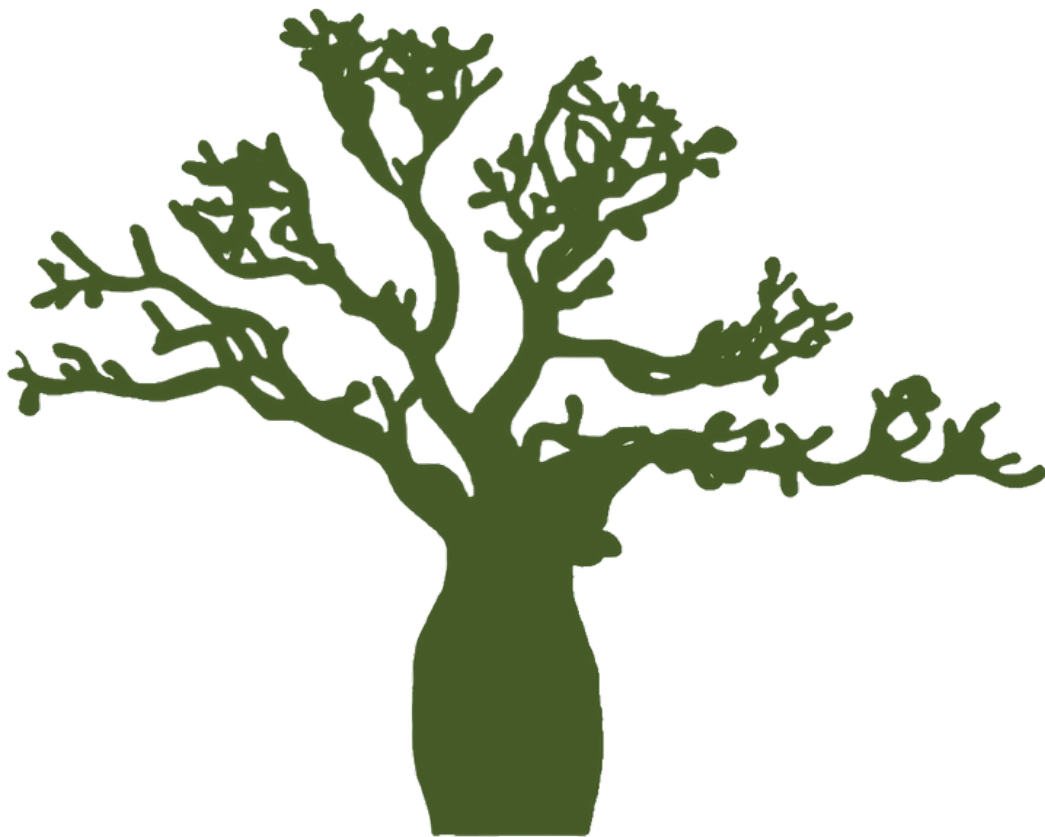




# Kimberley Food Community: Snapshot Report



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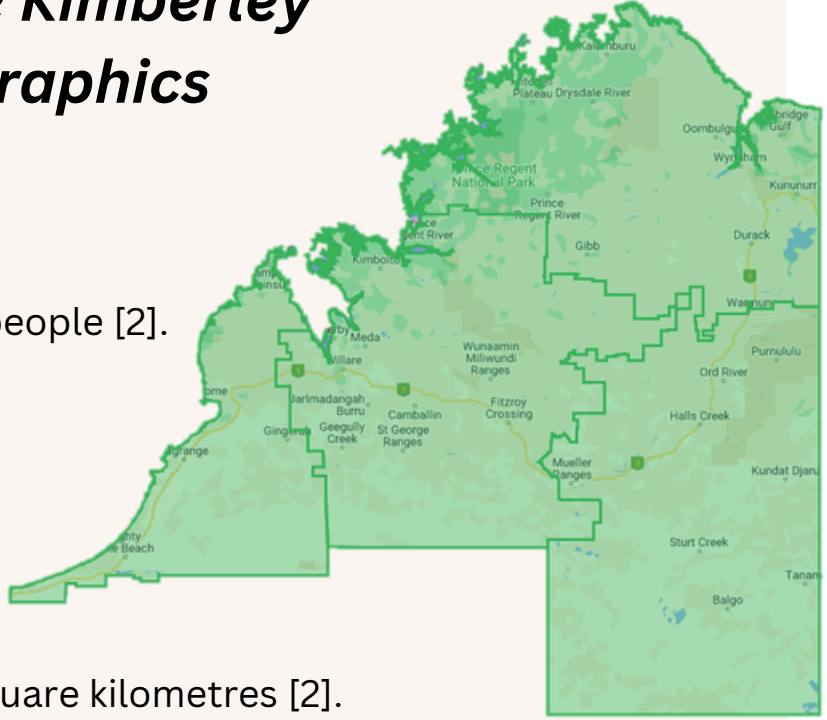
# Kimberley Food Community Snapshot

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]. **Food insecurity** arises when people cannot regularly or reliably obtain food in adequate quantities or in socially acceptable ways for good health and wellbeing [1].

## A snapshot of the Kimberley region demographics

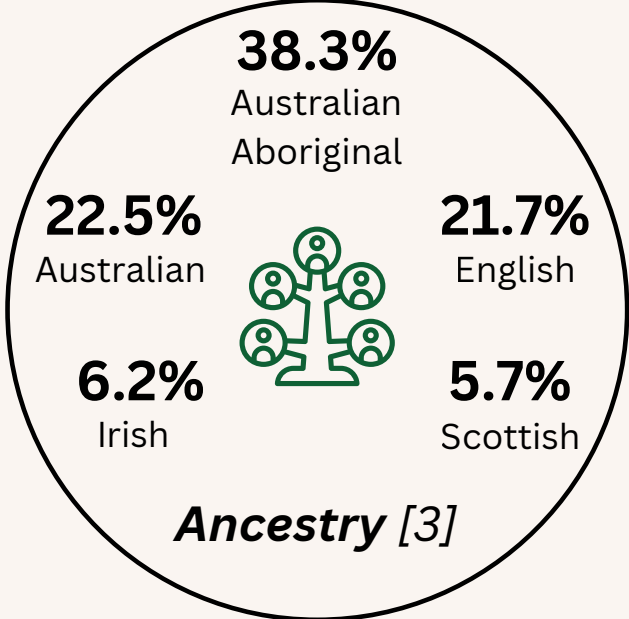
A population of  **36,014** people [2].

 **4** local government authorities [2].



**419,558** square kilometres [2].

Map of the Kimberley region (Adapted from REMPLAN MapBuilder, <https://mapbuilder.rempln.com.au/>)



### Employment status [3]




**64.0%** Worked full-time  
**22.3%** Worked part-time  
**7.6%** Away from work  
**6.1%** Unemployed

### Median weekly income [3]


**\$864** - Personal  
**\$1,950** - Family  
**\$1,762** - Household



## Family composition [3]

  
**32.5%**  
Couple without children


  
**40.1%**  
Couple family with children

  
**24.1%**  
One parent family

  
**3.0%**  
Other family

## Tenure type [3]

  
**13.2%**  
Owned outright

  
**17.9%**  
Owned with a mortgage


  
**59.3%**  
Rented




**2.8**  
Average number of people per household [3]

## Mortgage and rent [3]

  
**\$121**  
Median weekly rent repayments

  
**\$2,061**  
Median monthly mortgage repayments

## What we know about food insecurity across Australia

  
**13%**  
of Australian households [4].

  
**20%**  
of children in regional Western Australia [5].

- Low incomes.
- Unexpected bills [6].
- Children whose families received government financial assistance are 2.6 times more likely to be food insecure [5].

### Food insecurity impacts:

- Behavioural problems [7], impaired academic performance [8], low self-esteem and low self-efficacy [9].
- Compromised dietary intake, nutrient deficiencies like iron deficiency, and poor growth and development [10].
- Increased risk of heart disease [11].
- Diet-related diseases [12].
- Malnutrition among seniors [13].



Food in regional and remote areas is **expensive**, the **quality is often poorer**, **availability lower**, and **transport options reduced** [14].

# Kimberley region food problems in 2023

Community and interest holder perceptions of Kimberley region food problems [15].



Limited involvement and access for First Nations People (land rights, traditional knowledge).

High input costs.

Cost of living pressures.

Limited knowledge of seasonal foods.

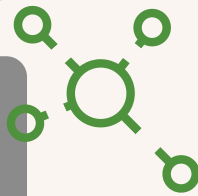


No 'factories' to process food or for value-added food.

No recycling or composting.

Food produced locally distributed to Perth then back to region for sale at higher prices.

Siloed food education in schools - don't learn the whole food system.



# How are existing initiatives supporting regional food security in 2023?\* [16]



**17** Addressing Food Availability

12 confirmed via an interview



**28** Addressing Food Access

13 confirmed via an interview



**36** Addressing Food Utilisation

19 confirmed via an interview



**1** Addressing Stability

1 confirmed via an interview



**1** Addressing Agency

1 confirmed via an interview



**1** Addressing Sustainability

1 confirmed via an interview

# Kimberley region response to food security issues in 2023\*\* [16]



**22**

Emergency Food Relief and Community Programs

6 explored via an interview



**22**

Food Literacy and Health Promotion Initiatives

14 explored via an interview



**11**

Businesses, Networks or Alliances

6 explored via an interview



**4**

Community Gardens and Food Swapping Groups

1 explored via an interview



**3**

Farmers' Markets and Food Events

2 explored via an interview



**2**

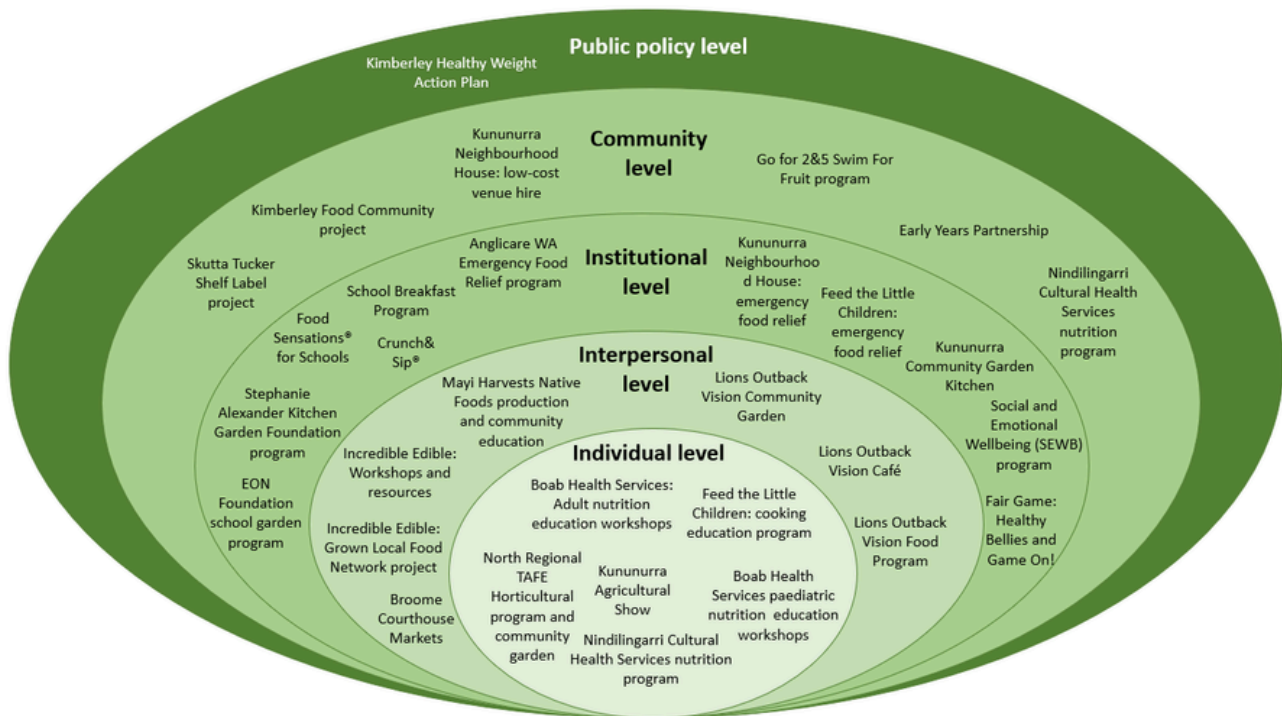
Policies or Strategic Plans

1 explored via an interview

\*some initiatives address multiple aspects

\*\*some initiatives run across multiple regions and initiative types

# Kimberley region Socio-Ecological Model of food security initiatives: Levels of intervention



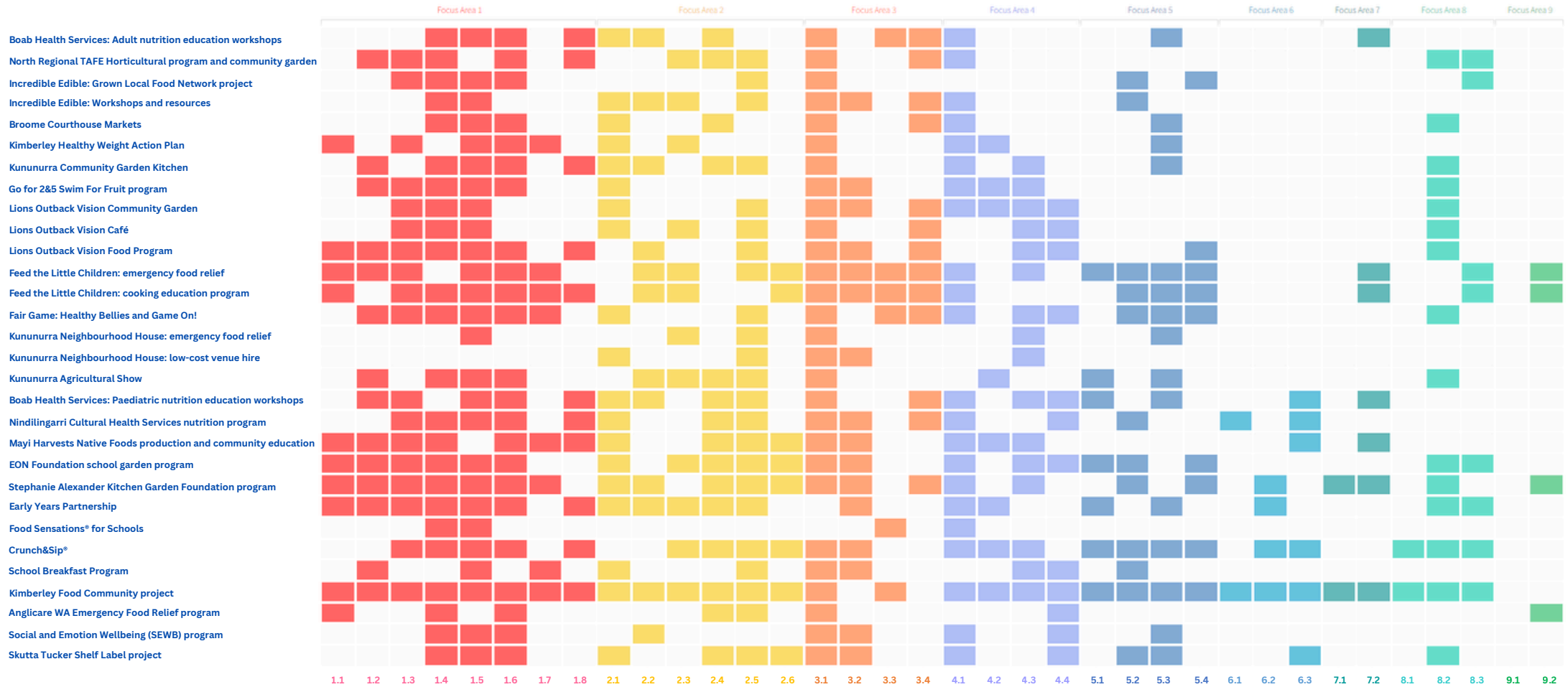
**Figure 1: Kimberley region Socio-Ecological Model of food security initiatives.** (Adapted from the model described by McLeroy et al. (1988) [17]).

The social-ecological model shows the different levels of intervention that these initiatives are focusing on (Figure 1). 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, or looking at the connection between them.
- The institutional level is often embedded within schools or other settings, like workplaces.
- The community level focuses on different partnerships between community organisations.
- The public policy level relates to supporting a variety of policy frameworks and initiatives.

Initiatives currently largely target the institutional and interpersonal levels of influence. More initiatives should aim to target the public policy level of influence to link with strategic priorities of government.

# Kimberley food security systems change impact card

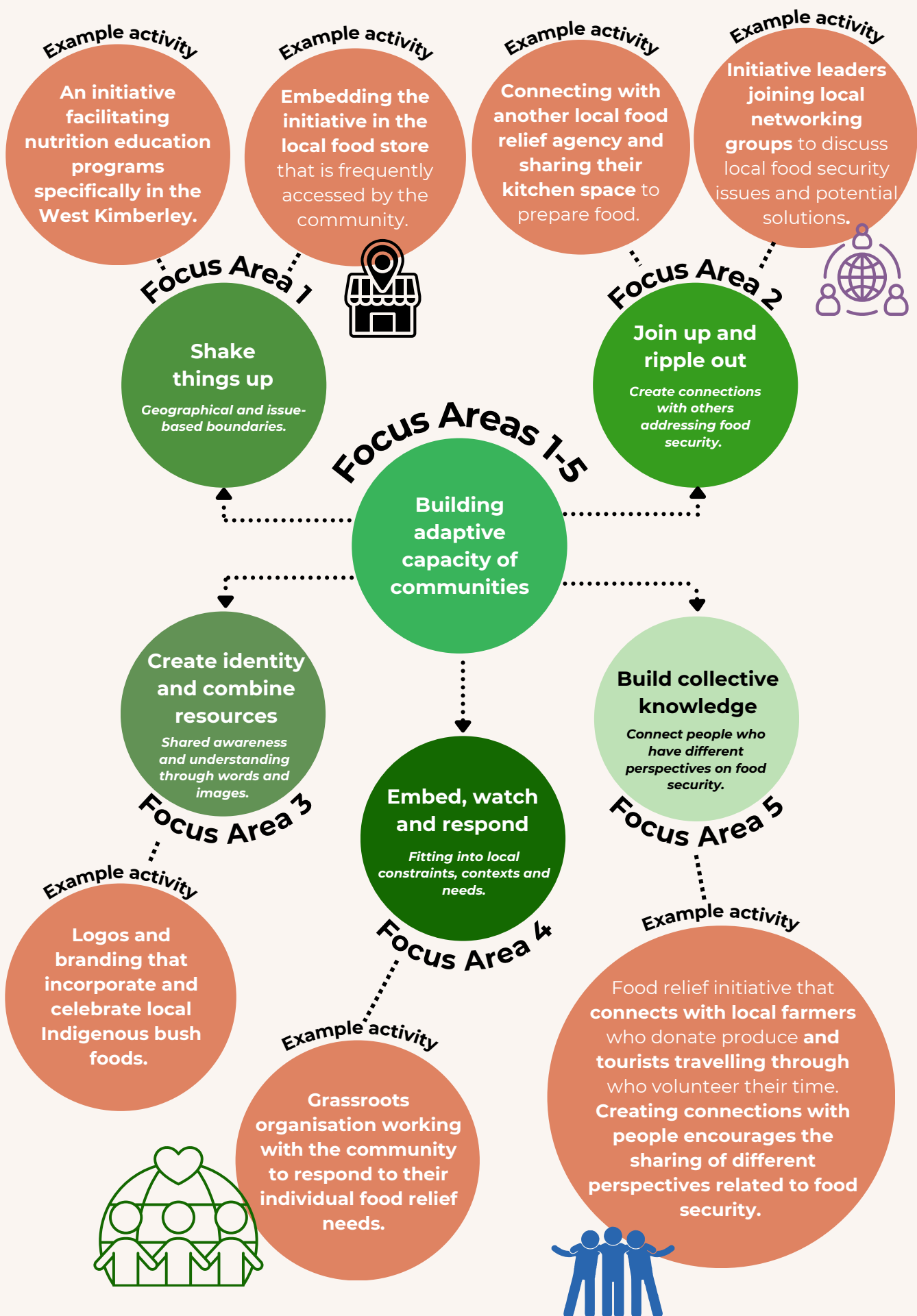


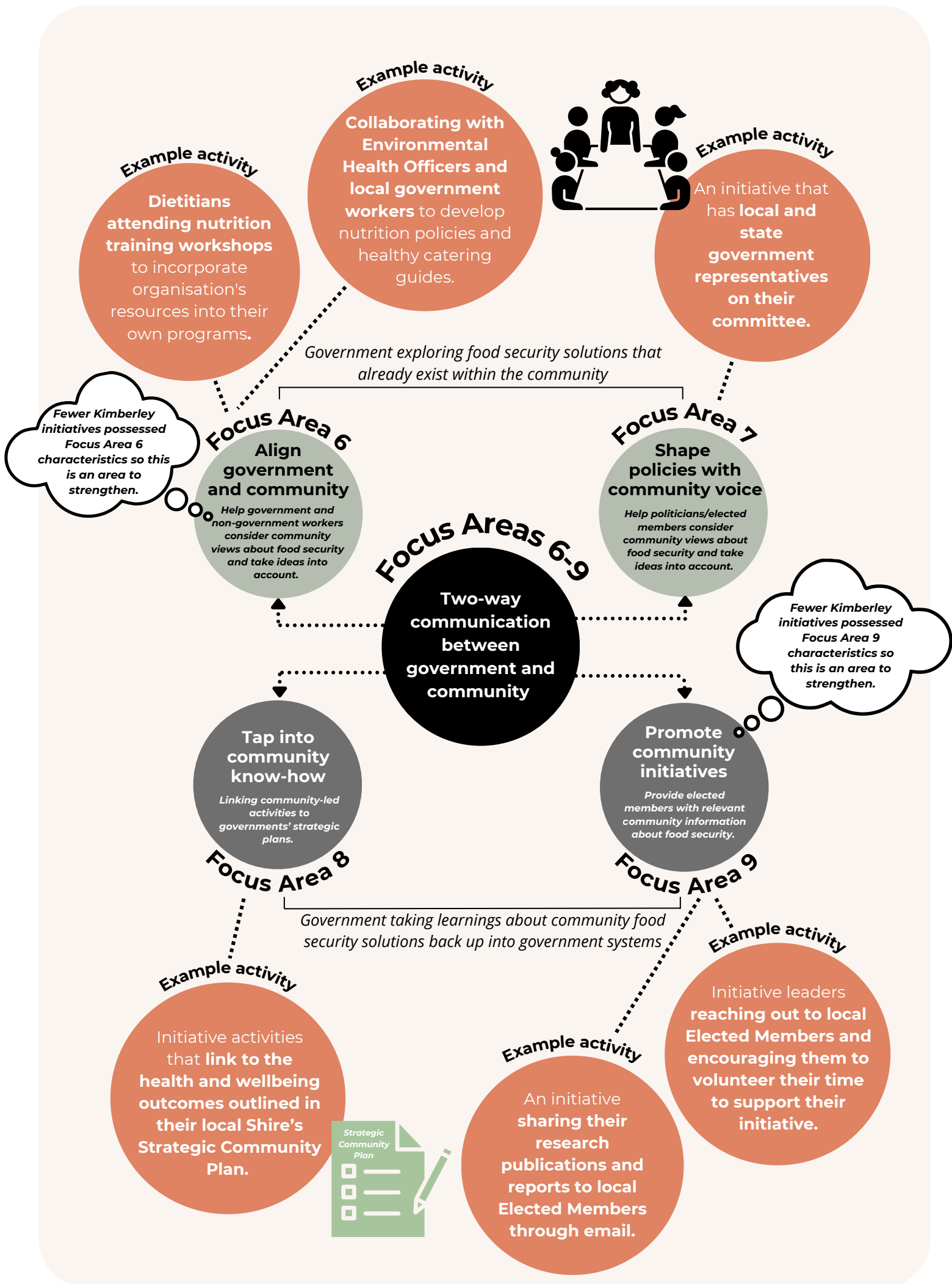
**Figure 2: Kimberley food security systems change impact card.** (Source: © 2023 Wicked Lab, © 2025 Eventide Systems. Tool for Systemic Change. <https://toolforsystemicchange.com>)

This impact card provides a visualisation of which systems change characteristics were most likely to be possessed by Kimberley food security initiatives in 2023. (Adapted from Godrich et al. (2025) [16]).



# How Kimberley region initiatives are contributing towards food security systems change





## Types of partnering organisations in the Kimberley region in 2023 [18]

37 

Non-government  
or not-for-profit  
organisations

15 

Aboriginal controlled  
health organisation,  
corporation or traditional  
owner-led organisation

10 

State government

5 

Education

3 

Businesses

3 

Federal  
government

2 

Local  
government

1 

Social enterprise

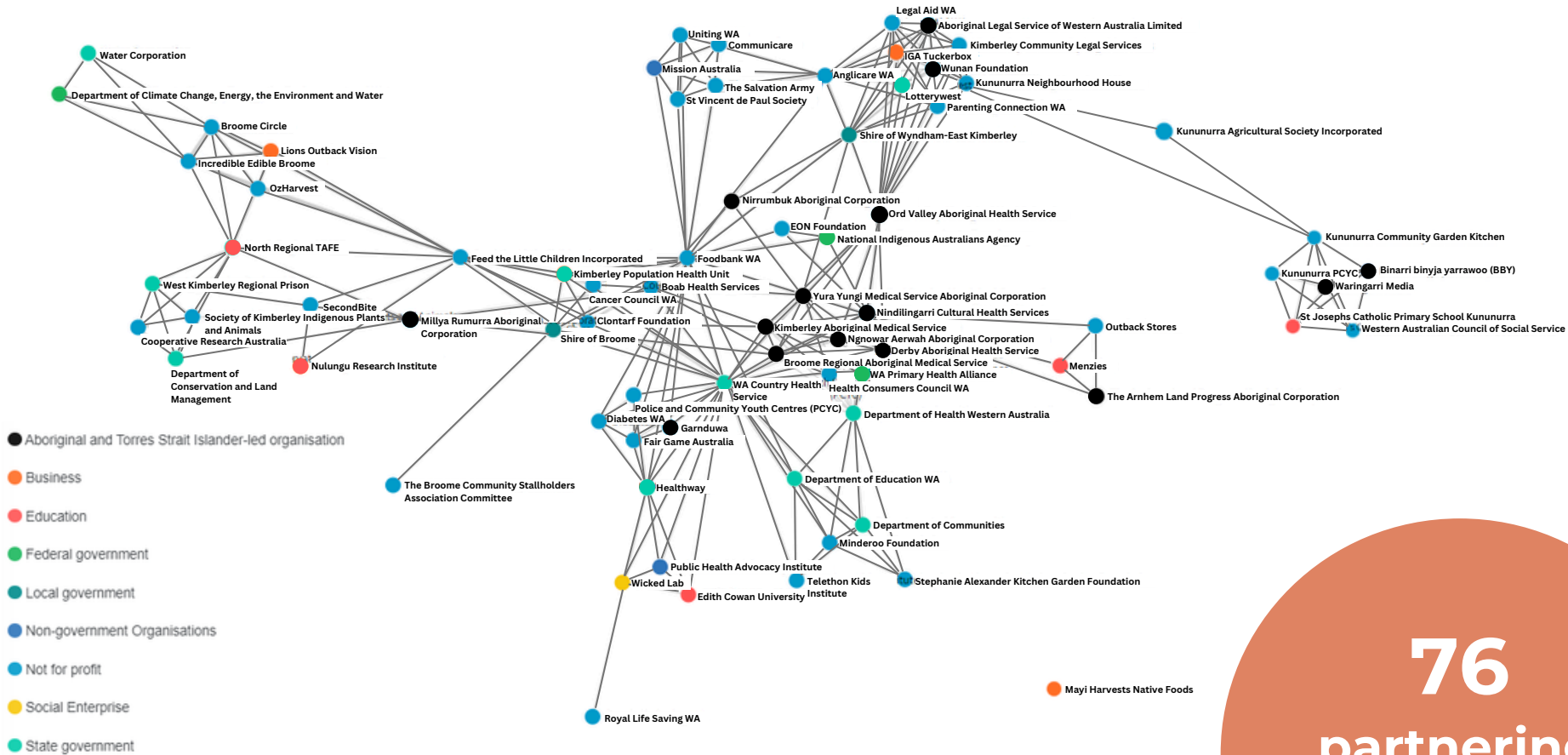
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### Kimberley region partnership findings

- The Kimberley partnership map is **transitioning from a ‘hub-and-spoke’ model to a ‘multi-hub’ model**. This indicates that it is shifting from a network where one organisation plays a central connecting role to a network which includes several coordinating roles who create relationships across the network [19].
- **26 organisations were ‘hubs’** in the Kimberley network. These organisations connected with more than the average number of partners and were essential to spreading information throughout different parts of the network [19].
- **Two not-for-profit organisations** (one which was not physically located in the region) and **one state government organisation** were **critical for information sharing** [19].
- **48 organisations were connected components**. They used their partnerships to receive and share information throughout the network [19].
- **One organisation was a connecting node**. This organisation was a bridge between the two partnership clusters of West Kimberley and East Kimberley organisations [19].
- **One organisation was unconnected** and they had no partnerships [19].

*\*See the next page for a visual representation of these findings.*

# Kimberley partnership map

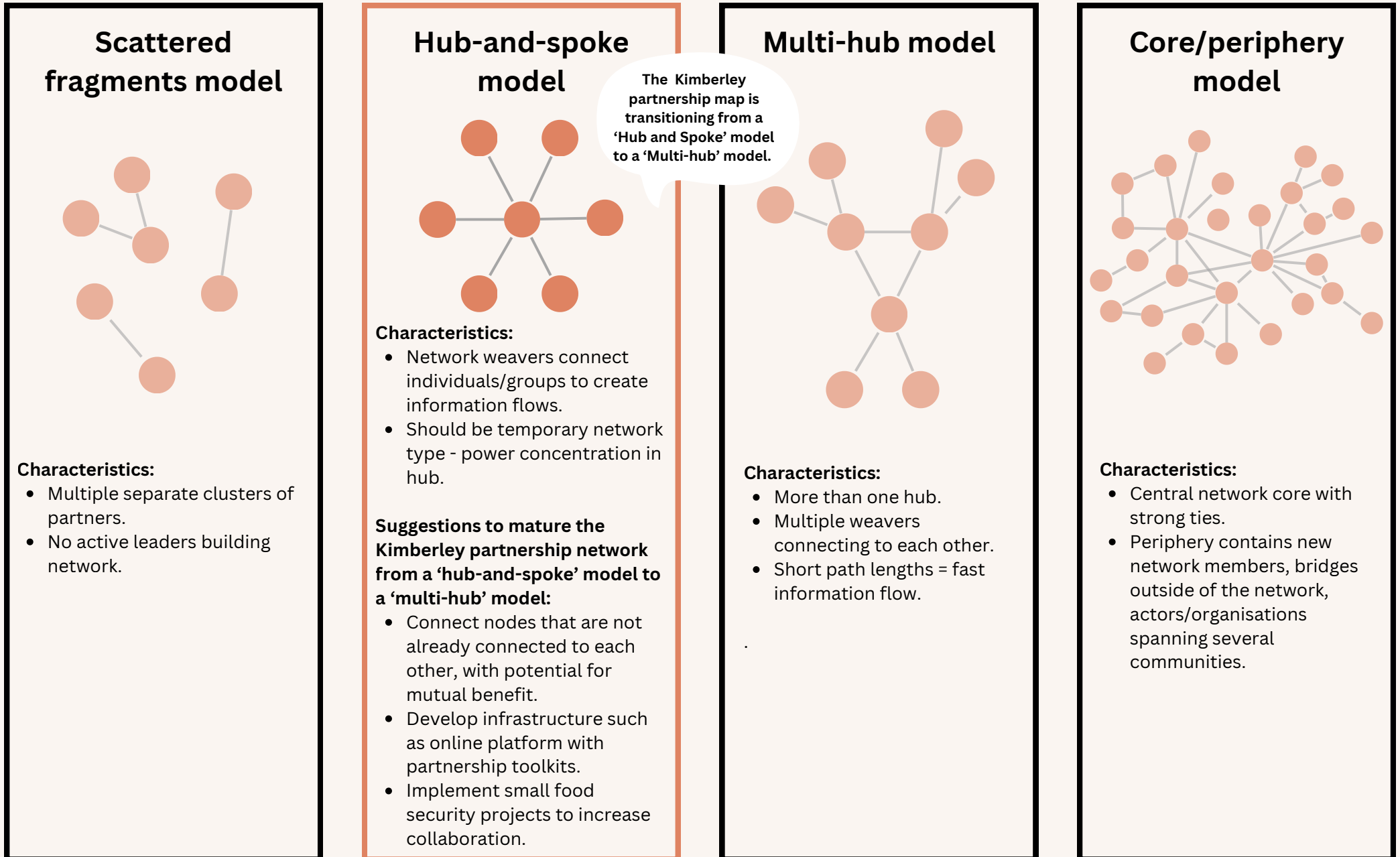


**76**  
partnering  
organisations

**Figure 3. Kimberley Partnership Map.** (Source: © 2023 Wicked Lab, © 2025 Eventide Systems. Tool for Systemic Change. <https://toolforsystemicchange.com>)

This partnership map shows all of the different partnerships and collaborations between the organisations working on food security within the Kimberley region in 2023. (Adapted from Godrich et al. (2026) [19]).

# Partnership Typologies



**Figure 4. Characteristics of network typologies and strategies to mature them.** (Adapted from Godrich et al. (2026) [19], Krebs & Holley (2006) [20], Mohr (2016) [21] and Ehrlichman (2021) [22]).

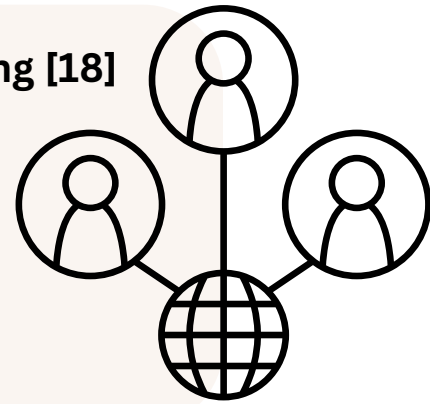
# Ways that Kimberley region organisations are working in partnership

Examples from initiatives across the Kimberley region:

## Collaboration, coordinated action and capacity building [18]

Partnerships focused on addressing local community issues. For example:

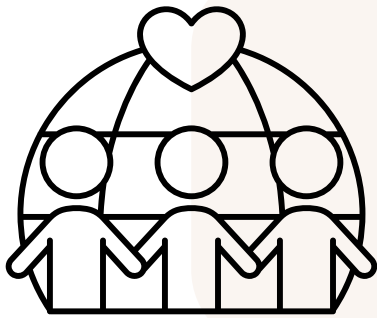
- An initiative where monthly meetings are held between key organisations to coordinate activities outlined in a collaborative action plan.



## Community consultation and involvement [18]

Community members who volunteered were described as integral in the design and/or delivery of services. For example:

- An initiative leader described their organisation as being governed by a committee of volunteers.



## Food and financial donations [18]

Several food relief initiatives received food donations. For example:

- A food relief initiative reliant on members and sponsors for food and financial donations to provide food relief.



## Funding and grants for program delivery [18]

Initiatives often received funding and grants for program delivery. For example:

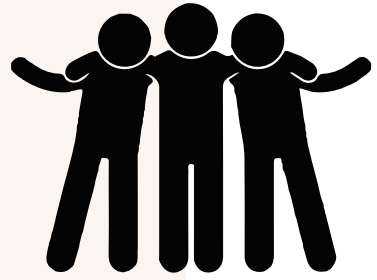
- A nutrition education initiative funded by a state government funding body.
- Some initiatives received support from local non-government organisations through funding for the community garden.



## On-ground program and service delivery [18]

Initiatives joined to support on-ground program delivery. For example:

- An initiative with a Memorandum of Understanding to deliver nutrition education sessions.
- Initiatives often delivered training in conjunction with other organisations. For example, an initiative led by an education institution, partnered with a local prison to deliver food growing workshops.



## Physical and human resources [18]

Initiatives regularly shared physical and human resources. For example:

- An initiative partnered with organisations in the local community to run their program out of their facilities.



# New initiative ideas and actions for the Kimberley region

Community and interest holder ideas for new initiatives and actions needed in the Kimberley region to better support food security systems change [23].

More positions/staff who could facilitate existing programs through sustainable funding

Promote healthy fundraising resources such as 'Not Another Sausage Sizzle'



Nutrition education and healthy food promotion

Free kids cooking program

Free food safety training run by the local Shire

Advocate for freight subsidies

Advocating for verge gardens access in public health planning

Community cool room/storage and kitchen for charities and small businesses



Advocacy

Collective key messaging about the promotion of food availability across the Kimberley region



Community food storage



White good grants

Grocery shopping bus in towns – includes cultural liaison/support and could be funded by industry



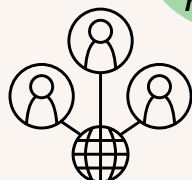
Community transport



Social supermarkets

Policies and key messages

Partner with a philanthropic group for funds



Food Collective

Food Collective with a ten point plan: advocacy training, people involved in the Food Collective have job descriptions

# Recommendations from the Food Community project findings



Recommendations to support the current food security system to shift towards a more effective way of working [16]:

- Kimberley food security **initiative leaders could strengthen their food security impact by enhancing Focus Area 6 attributes**, such as in the following ways:
  - **Supporting government and community staff coming together to work on food security.**
  - **Encouraging the government to provide information about food security to their region's residents.**
  - **Supporting governments to include community ideas about food security in their plans.**
- Kimberley 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 'Initiative Directory'** – 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.
- Support **better collaborations between government and community organisations.**



Recommendations to strengthen WA regions' partnership networks [18, 19]:

- **Organisations should identify and document (through adaptable formal partnership agreements) clear partnership purposes, roles, and actions.**
- If desired, **the one unconnected organisation should be supported to connect into their partnership network.** This could be achieved through creating a bank of region-based partnership opportunities e.g. the Food Community website ([www.foodcommunity.com.au](http://www.foodcommunity.com.au)) and interagency networking groups.
- **The Kimberley region network should be supported to shift across the network stages.** E.g. by connecting organisations, increasing collaboration on small food security projects, bringing in new organisations, and implementing ways to share information.

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