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FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

ACTION PLAN 2016 - 2020

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1. Acknowledgement of Darebin's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations as the traditional landowners and the historical and contemporary custodians of the land on which the City of Darebin and surrounding municipalities are located.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diversity of Darebin's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, valuing the unique and important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and organisations play in progressing reconciliation, respect and the building of mutual understanding across the City, amongst its people, and in the achievement of shared aspirations. Council also recognises and pays tribute to, and celebrates, Darebin's long standing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.

2. Mayor's Foreword

Darebin City Council is committed to reducing the level of food and nutrition insecurity across the municipality. This action plan focuses on Council role is addressing both short and long-term aspects of food and nutrition insecurity, tackling the diverse and complex issues surrounding access to food and nutrition.

The Darebin Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan 2016 – 2020 seeks to implement Objective 5.2 of the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 - 2017 "to promote food security, healthy eating and safe food provision for all Darebin residents". Darebin's Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017 has been developed on our understanding that people's health and wellbeing are influenced by the social, economic, cultural, built and natural conditions in which people are born, grow, learn, live, work and age. These are known as social determinants that can either strengthen or weaken our health and wellbeing.

Building on the Darebin City Council's previous Food Security Policy, the Action Plan will deliver food security and nutrition initiatives that support community groups at greatest risk of food insecurity, with a focus on food access and affordability, increasing nutritional knowledge and enhancing advocacy and integrated planning.

The 2016 -2020 Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan complements the 2014-2018 Urban Food Production Strategy, which provides a comprehensive framework to guide and support food growing and preparation through local food responses. Together these action plans provide Council with a sound and holistic framework to address food insecurity and improve nutrition in our community.

I would like to thank all of the community members, community organisations, Darebin Emergency Relief Network and Council staff who participated in the community consultation process for the development of this action plan and look forward to working in collaboration with you and other stakeholders to implement the actions prioritised in the plan.

3. Introduction

As outlined in the 2013 – 2017 Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan, Goal Five, *Objective 5.2: To promote food security, healthy eating and safe food provision for all Darebin people*, food security has been identified as a significant issue impacting the health and wellbeing outcomes of Darebin residents. Council recognises that food insecurity and the demand for emergency relief are symptoms of underlying poverty and socioeconomic disadvantage,

which significantly impacts an individual's physical and mental wellbeing and their overall quality of life.

Working under the framework of the 2013 – 2017 Health and Wellbeing Plan and building on the previous Policy, the 2016-2020 Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan reflects the progress made by Council and community and the current needs and opportunities in the Darebin community. The Action Plan acknowledges the complexity of food security and the significant impact it has on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. Further to this, the scope of the Action Plan has been extended to also consider nutritional needs in the Darebin community and the factors contributing to food insecurity that can also affect the nutritional quality of the diet.

The 2016-2020 Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan recognises that the most effective role for local government is to coordinate the implementation of an integrated action plan that works in across the organisation and partnership with community organisations. The Action Plan works across the social, economic, natural and built environments, as well as the local service network to deliver a range of short, medium and long term initiatives to address food insecurity and improve nutritional outcomes.

While the Action Plan includes some universal approaches, it prioritises initiatives that emphasise equity, with a focus on groups and communities in Darebin at greater risk of experiencing food insecurity and poorer nutrition outcomes.

Using five guiding principles the action plan will deliver a range of initiatives under three objectives that will assist Council to reduce food insecurity and improve nutritional outcomes. The Goal of the Plan in to:

Increase food security and enhance nutrition outcomes for communities most at risk.

Objective 1: Increase food access and affordability for Darebin residents.

Objective 2: Increase nutrition awareness and improve food practices.

Objective 3: Advocate for responsive and integrated food security and nutrition policy at all levels of government.

The Action Plan will be implemented, monitored and reviewed between 2016 and 2020 against a set of outcomes based results. The overall action plan will be measured against three Key Performance Indicators that reflect the action plan goal and objectives.

| Measure | Current | Target |
|---|---|--|
| Number of local businesses and community food enterprises donating surplus food to food relief programs | Preston Market and Northland Shopping Centre are the biggest donors of surplus food to food relief programs through the partnership with SecondBite | 15% increase in the number of businesses and community food enterprises donating surplus food over the next four years |
| Number of services and organisations in Darebin which adopt food and nutrition guidelines or policies. | No existing measure | Council to support two organisations / services each year to develop and adopt food and nutrition guidelines |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| Number of submissions made to support community partners | | |
| Number of Council strategies / plans that integrate food security and nutrition | Included in three plans | Increase the number of relevant polices which respond to food security and nutrition. |

3.1 What is food security?

“Being able to have a basic well-balanced diet, doesn’t have to be luxuries but knowing you can buy fruits and veg, you can afford coffee,” (Female, Salvation Army, 9 July 2015)

At the most basic level, food is a necessity and a basic human right. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Article 25 states that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of themselves and of their family, including food.

Food security refers to the ability of individuals, households and communities to access an appropriate and nutritious food supply on a regular and reliable basis, and using socially acceptable means (i.e. without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing and other coping strategies). A further definition of food security is ‘the state in which all persons can obtain nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable, safe foods through non-emergency sources’ (VicHealth, 2005).

In addition affecting an individual’s ability to meet their nutritional needs for optimal physical health, food insecurity has also been linked with weight gain and lifestyle diseases. Further to this, consistently worrying about where the next meal will come from can lead to anxiety and over time can result in serious mental health and wellbeing outcomes can result (Weinreb et al. 2002; Stuff et al. 2004). Further to this, as food plays an important role in cultural expression and social inclusion, for people who experience food insecurity their experience of isolation and exclusion can be compounded.

3.2 Food Security policy and practise in Darebin

Council’s initial Food Security Policy (2010- 2015) outlined Council’s role and commitment to improving food security in the municipality and provided a framework to guide local level action. Over the period Council in partnership community organisations delivered a range of initiatives including:

- Establishment of partnership with SecondBite and local Darebin businesses to donate surplus produce, including Preston Market and businesses at Northland Shopping Centre.
- Supported the development of community food enterprises to collect surplus produce from private homes.
- Development of the Darebin Food Bank Hub in partnership with SecondBite and the Salvation Army which provides over 200kg of fresh produce to emergency relief agencies each week.
- Development of the 2014-2018 Urban Food Production Strategy and a permanent part time Urban Food Production Officer.

- Development of various social meals programs providing nutritious and free/low cost meals.
- Supported the development of four community gardens, including 2 in areas of high socioeconomic disadvantage.

During this time Council has also enhanced the integration of food security principles and strategies across our work in land use planning, transportation, economic development as well as environmental and social programs. Council has also worked to advocate at State and Federal level for improved policy development as well as on behalf of our local community organisations that provide essential support for residents experiencing food insecurity. Enhancing the integration of food security and nutrition into our own policies as well as advocacy for our community partners will continue to be key roles for Council.

In addition to providing access to free or low cost nutritious food, Council will also continue to support programs that incorporate a social aspect which has proven to support individual's sense of social inclusion and community connection and can provide a pathway to participation in other activities and programs.

3.3 Prevalence and patterns in Darebin

The Action plan is informed by a 2015 food security and nutrition survey of 424 Darebin residents and an extensive consultation process, which was undertaken using Council's Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool (EIPAT) and Community Engagement Plan. Over 160 people were consulted with through a variety of approaches.

In the past 12 months, 5.8% of households in Darebin reported running out of food and not having enough money to buy more (Darebin City Council 2014a), with this occurring from once every month to once a year. Comparatively, food insecurity was measured across Victoria as occurring at 4.6% (Victoria Department of Health 2013b). In addition to running out of food, 9.6% of Darebin residents reported worrying about running out of food without having money to buy more at least once in the past 12 months (Darebin City Council 2015a).

This is a reduction from 2007, where 7.6% of people in Darebin had run out of food in the previous 12 months and could not afford to buy more. This reduction reflects the growing affluence across the municipality, with the city becoming less disadvantaged overall, however at a suburb or neighbourhood level persistent disadvantage still exists.

In East Preston 7.8% of households reported running out of food and not having enough money to buy more once or twice a month (Darebin City Council 2015a). Further to this, while less than 5% of respondents reported having accessed a form of emergency food aid program services at all in the last twelve months, 11.5% of households in East Reservoir reported that they had accessed food vouchers in the past 12 months.

While this provides an understanding of the nature of food insecurity in Darebin, this data does not take into account the issues surrounding nutrition. Even if people don't run out of food and can afford to buy food, what they consume may be nutritionally inappropriate and damaging to the long-term health and wellbeing of individuals.

Further details of the consultation process, findings and data relating to food insecurity in Darebin is outlined in Food Security and Nutrition in Darebin - Background Paper 2016.

3.4 Groups most impacted by food insecurity

While anyone can find themselves in a situation where they are unable to access food, particularly during hard economic times, for some sections of the community food insecurity is a chronic concern. There are a number of groups within Australia who are acknowledged

as being at a higher risk of food and nutrition insecurity than others (Rosier, 2015) and many of these at-risk groups have above-average representation within Darebin (Department of Health and Human Services 2013). Population and consultation data suggest that the following groups are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity in the City of Darebin:

- Low income households including sole person, sole parent (of which 82.4% are women) and student households.
- People with low proficiency in English, particularly newly arrived migrants and refugees.
- People from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background.
- Households in the Northern suburbs of Darebin.
- Frail older adults or people with a mental illness or disability who require support for meals.
- People in housing stress or homeless (Department of Health and Human Services 2013)
- Women experiencing or at risk of experiencing family violence.

Women are over represented within the groups identified as being at a higher risk of food and nutrition insecurity. For example, women make up 82.4% of sole parent households in Darebin and make up a larger proportion (1.6% more) of older people living in Darebin than men. Women are over represented in the individuals with less than \$400 income per week in Darebin, making up 59.2% (Women's Health In the North, 2015). In Darebin, women are 7.8% more likely than men to experience transport limitations which impacts on their ability to access food (Community Indicators Victoria, 2016).

People with disability are over represented in the groups of people identified above. People with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty, have poor-quality or insecure housing, low levels of workforce participation and education, and be socially excluded or marginalised; they may also face violence and discrimination related to their disability and have difficulty accessing appropriate health care (WHO & World Bank Group 2011). Women with disabilities experience significantly higher rates of violence and abuse and are one of the most marginalized and disadvantaged groups in Australia. These factors compound, placing people with disability – especially women with disability - at heightened risk food insecurity.

Council's consultation process demonstrated that people in Darebin who are at a higher risk or experience food and nutrition insecurity deal with these issues in a variety of ways, which has a significant impact on their physical and mental wellbeing.

3.5 Influencing Food and Nutrition Insecurity

The following factors are vital in influencing food access and security:

- Economic – having adequate income or resources to buy food or having affordable food outlets in the neighbourhood.
- Physical ability – having the ability to walk, drive and carry purchases home.
- Physical infrastructure – the availability of public transport or safe walkable routes to shops.
- Cultural relevance – availability of socially and culturally appropriate food.

- Geographical location – the availability of shops with a variety of socially and culturally appropriate food.

These factors reflect the broader social determinants of health and wellbeing. Council aims to influence these larger determinants at a systemic level through a range of policies across the portfolios of transport, economic development, health and wellbeing, social inclusion and strategic planning through a long term, preventative approach.

While Council must continue to take a long term preventative approach that addresses the underlying determinants of food insecurity, Council must also work in partnership with our partners to support residents who experience food insecurity to minimise the impact that this has on their ongoing health and wellbeing.

Low socio-economic status and poverty

The SEIFA Index of Disadvantage measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of attributes including income, low educational attainment, unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations. Darebin has a SEIFA Disadvantage score of 990, ranking as the 39th most disadvantaged local government in Victoria. While Darebin has become less disadvantaged overall in the past 10 years, significant health and socioeconomic disparity between areas still remain, with some areas among the top 1% most disadvantaged of small areas in Victoria (ABS 2011).

Areas that have a low SEIFA index are characterised by a number of factors associated with a greater risk of experiencing nutrition insecurity and obesity, such as low income and unemployment. A recently commissioned report shows the risk of obesity is 20 to 40% higher in women who have low incomes and are experiencing food insecurity (VicHealth, 2005).

Cost

“Price of fruit, vegetable and staples always increase. If the government could monitor the price of all these healthy foods, no one will need help” (Female, Asylum seeker families, 4 September 2015)

The financial situation of some of Darebin’s most disadvantaged households is inadequately matched to the cost associated with eating a healthy diet (Kettings & Sinclair 2009). The consultation process regularly demonstrated that fast food outlets were often favoured as a cheap option, despite pre-prepared meals often being more expensive than a meal prepared at home. Individuals, for a number of reasons, would often consume fast food, even if it put further strain on their food budget. By creating urban environments that are conducive to fresh food outlets and provide a balance of food outlets, people are less likely to consume food that is more expensive and less nutritious than a home-made meal (Fraser et al. 2010).

Availability

The inability to easily access healthy, nutritious food may also make households within Darebin food and nutritionally insecure. Areas known as ‘food deserts’ exist when people live in places where fresh food is not easily accessible (United States Department of Agriculture 2015). As Darebin has the lowest rate of passenger vehicle ownership for any local government area in Victoria (Department of Health and Human Services 2013), the existence of food deserts can result in great difficulty accessing nutritious food. Further to this, areas with a higher density of fast food outlets are often in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and have been shown to lead to a reduced fruit and vegetable intake, reduced choices for fresh foods and are linked to higher overweight and obesity rates (Fraser et al. 2010).

Obesity and food insecurity

The nutritional aspect of food security is often overlooked in favour of simply ensuring people are eating regular meals. However, an important part of food security is access to "nutritionally adequate and safe foods". Public health recommendations for an adult to eat five serves vegetables, as well as two serves of fruit per day are often not feasible for those who are low income earners.

According to responses from the 2015 Darebin Food and Nutrition Survey, approximately one-third of respondents consume one or two serves of vegetables per day and only 41.2% consume three to four serves per day. The overwhelming majority (96.6%) of respondent households reported that they consume at least one serve of fresh fruit per day. Half of the respondent households reported that they consume one or two serves of fruit per day, with 29.7% consuming between three and four serves per day.

Approximately one-third of respondents (37.8%) reported that they would like to eat more fresh fruit and vegetables. Of the 296 respondents reporting that they would like to eat more fresh fruit and vegetables, a little more than half (53.0%) reported that the reasons for not eating more related to price, and almost one-third (29.7%) reported that the reason related to the poor quality of fruit and vegetables at their closest shop.

In addition to fruit and vegetable consumption, data from the 2015 Neighbourhood Wellbeing Indicators survey demonstrates that areas with a lower SEIFA index such as East Preston and East reservoir, have a significantly higher rate of daily soft drink consumption than the broader Darebin community and the Victorian average (Darebin City Council 2015).

4. Policy Context

4.1 Federal Government

There is an increasing recognition of the impact of food insecurity on the health and wellbeing of communities within the Federal context. The Department of Health and Ageing considers food security within the context of healthy eating and nutrition and acknowledges the high burden of preventable chronic disease caused by poor nutrition and the subsequent strain placed on the public health system. This framework however has a limited focus on addressing the broader social determinants which contribute to food insecurity.

4.2 State Government

The State Government recognises the vital role of the social determinants of health in addressing health promotion priorities. The Victorian Government's Food Interdepartmental objectives include, *competitive food business in domestic and international markets, healthier Victoria with obesity decreasing, vibrant food culture and connected community (including tourism), and safe, secure, sustainable and resilient food systems.*

Since 2001, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) has been a leader and key driver for funding local food security initiatives and advocating to the State and Federal governments. VicHealth has lead and funded a range of local government projects to strengthen and integrate planning and strategy development to address barriers to accessing affordable and nutritious food.

4.3 Darebin's local context

Darebin Council Plan 2013-2017

Food security and nutrition relates to three of the six strategic goals articulated in the 2013 - 2017 Council Plan including *Healthy and Connected Community, Sustainable and Resilient Neighbourhoods* and *Thriving Creative Culture*. The development, implementation and review of the Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan are identified as a priority action under Goal Two: Health and Connected Community.

Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017

The 2013 – 2017 Health and Wellbeing Plan provides the overarching framework for this Action Plan in Goal Five, Objective 5.2: *To promote food security, healthy eating and safe food provision for all Darebin people*. The Health and Wellbeing Plan is underpinned by the social determinants of health model, and recognises that the differences in community health and wellbeing outcomes across the municipality can be explained by differences in the social, economic, political, cultural, built and natural conditions in our lives.

Key priority action areas related to food security and nutrition identified in the Health and Wellbeing Plan that this Action plan will deliver include:

- supporting and integrating food security and healthy eating initiatives as part of existing social support programs, with a focus on Aboriginal people and newly arrived people, including refugees, migrants and asylum seekers.
- developing integrated and responsive programs which empower people to healthier food purchasing and preparation as part of neighbourhood development.
- supporting and advocating for increased community gardens in neighbourhoods where there is significant social and economic disadvantage both for local fresh food production and to integrate intergenerational opportunities and involvement.

Urban Food Strategy 2014-2018

Food security and nutrition strongly aligns with and complements the Urban Food Strategy 2014-2018, which aims to guide and support food growing and preparation through local food responses. These initiatives aim to enhance health, wellbeing and community connectedness, improve the environment and regenerate natural resources. To compliment rather than duplicate the work of the Urban Food production Strategy, this Action Plan focuses mostly on addressing the determinants in the social and economic environments which contribute to food insecurity, rather than the production of food.

Darebin Housing Strategy 2013 – 2033

The 2013 – 2033 Housing Strategy aims to create a fair, liveable and sustainable community for Darebin. The Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan is supported by Goal Three: *Address housing affordability and social housing needs*, which recognises that affordable housing is fundamental to our wellbeing, standard of living and quality of life.

Additional strategies and plans that support food security and nutrition across Darebin

Food security and nutrition is supported by key actions across the following plans and strategies, through addressing a number of other aspects relevant to food and nutrition security:

- Going Places: Darebin Transport Strategy 2007-2027

- Darebin Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011-2021
- Darebin Waste and Litter Strategy 2015-2025
- Darebin City Council Whole of Water Cycle Management Strategy 2015-2025
- Darebin Economic Land Use Strategy
- Darebin Cycling Strategy 2013-2018
- Darebin Early Years Strategy 2011-2021
- Municipal Emergency Management Plan
- Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan 2015-2019

5. Best Practice and Guiding Principles

The Darebin Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan is based on the following best practice and guiding principles:

- Access to adequate and nutritious food is a fundamental human right as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948.
- Action must be equity focused and recognise the social gradient of food insecurity. A focus on inequalities and those who are most vulnerable should be maintained to ensure that equity of access to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food is achieved.
- Focus on the prevention of ill health and diet-related disease by targeting protective health factors associated with healthy eating and nutritional intake.
- Promote environmental sustainability through localised food production, sustainable food choices and food waste management strategies to support the future food security of the municipality against the impacts of broader factors such as climate change and peak oil.
- Develop partnerships at all levels to recognise the broad intersectoral context for food insecurity prevention and management. All levels of government must work with various sectors to influence the social, economic and environmental factors that determine food insecurity.
- Work from an evidence-based approach to ensure program planning and evaluation is informed by research and local information. Research, monitoring, evaluation are essential components that will underpin food insecurity and nutrition initiatives.

6. Goal, objectives and actions

The goal of the City of Darebin Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan is:

To increase food security and enhance nutrition outcomes for communities most at risk.

The Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan focuses on three objectives aimed at making a short and long-term impact on the way residents of Darebin access and consume nutritionally adequate food.

Objective 1: Increase food access and affordability for Darebin residents.

Objective 2: Increase nutrition awareness and improve food practices.

Objective 3: Advocate for responsive and integrated food security and nutrition policy at all levels of government.

“It’s about life skills. The more life skills you have the more you are able to integrate them into improving your life and helping you through difficult times” (Male, DIVRS, 10 August 2015

Objective 1: Increase food access and affordability for Darebin residents

| Action | Lead department and partners | Output | Resources required | Timeline |
|--|--|--|---|------------|
| 1.1 Continue to update and redistribute the Financial Assistance & Food Vouchers Guide & Budget Bites Guide | Community Wellbeing | Review the Guide yearly and make updates as needed | Within existing staff resources | Annually |
| | | Review Budget Bites every two years and make updates as needed | | |
| 1.2 Continue to support and resource the Darebin Food Hub Network | Community Wellbeing | Increased number of agencies and groups linked into the Darebin Food Hub | Within existing staff resources | Ongoing |
| | | Increased quantities of food redistributed to community members in need | | |
| 1.3 Identify transportation planning opportunities to improve access to shops and food outlets | Transport Management Team Community Wellbeing | Actions identified to support user friendly public transport and walkable neighbourhoods | As per resources allocated in existing strategies and plans | Ongoing |
| 1.4 Continue to implement the 2014-2018 Urban Food Strategy and Action Plan and strengthen links between local food production and access. | Environment and Natural Resources | Improved, accessible and sustainable Urban Food Systems | As per resources allocated and sought in strategy | Year 1 & 2 |
| 1.5 Identify and map the distribution of fast food and fresh food outlets in Darebin | Community Wellbeing | Production of a map outlining location and nature of food outlets in Darebin | Within existing staff resources | Year 1 & 2 |

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| 1.6 Identify food deserts and areas with ratios that favour fast food outlets over fresh food outlets | Community Wellbeing | Identification of areas with the most fast food outlets as a ratio to fresh food outlets | Within existing staff resources | Year 1 & 2 |
| 1.7 Continue to support and promote community based meals programs that provide free or low cost and social meals | Community Wellbeing | Increase in the number of community food enterprises | Within existing staff resources | Ongoing |
| 1.8 Seek opportunities to work with food rescue organisations, local businesses and community food enterprises to redistribute food and minimise food waste | Community Wellbeing | Increased number of businesses including, shopping centres, fresh food markets, cafes, restaurants and receptions donating surplus food to Secondbite. | Within existing staff resources | Ongoing |

Objective 2: Increase nutrition awareness and improve food practices

| Action | Lead department and partners | Output | Resources required | Timeline |
|--|---|--|--|------------|
| 2.1 Provide training to key staff in agencies who service disadvantaged people to promote the key messages of food and nutrition guidelines. | Community wellbeing | Increased number of trained workers to deliver the training, including bi-cultural workers | Within existing staff resources | Year 1 & 2 |
| | | 100% of agencies providing food relief attend the training | | |
| 2.2 Identify and support food support agencies to develop healthy food donation guidelines | Community wellbeing | Work with 2 agencies annually to develop health food guidelines | Within existing staff resources & financial resources. | Year 1 & 2 |
| | | Develop and implement plans to improve food donation quality | | |
| 2.3 Develop targeted education including self-help and peer education programs in primary schools to increase nutritional knowledge | Community Wellbeing | 4 schools identified for pilot. 100% of pilot primary schools integrate healthy eating information. | Within existing staff resources | Year 2 & 3 |
| 2.4 Promote water as drink choice over soft drinks to staff, priority communities and a number of community settings | Community Wellbeing Leisure services | Social marketing campaign on drinking water delivered | Within existing staff resources | Year 1 |
| 2.5 Develop and implement a communication plan and social marketing campaign to promote healthy eating | Community Wellbeing Communications | Communication plan developed and delivered | Within existing staff resources | Ongoing |

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| 2.6 Provide training to early childhood centres and schools regarding the food and nutrition guidelines | Community Wellbeing | Childhood centres and schools report increased number of nutritious foods offered in childhoods centres and schools | Within existing staff resources | Year 1 & 2 |
| 2.7 Identify opportunities to support Early years and Schools to engage in healthy eating initiatives. | Community Wellbeing | 2 sites selected each year | Within existing staff resources | Annually over 4 years |
| 2.8 Support community initiatives that increase food literacy around food purchasing, preparation, and nutritious and sustainable food choices | Community Wellbeing | Increase in number of collaborative projects. Community members informed about and accessing resources and programs | Additional resources required | Ongoing |
| | | Nutritional education in developed in relevant languages other than English | | |

Objective 3: Advocate for responsive and integrated food security and nutrition policy at all levels of government

| Action | Lead department and partners | Output | Resources required | Timeline |
|--|---|---|---|----------|
| 3.1 Advocate and support our community partners to secure appropriate and stable funding. | Community Wellbeing | Ongoing advocacy provided in consultation with community partners. | Within existing staff resources | Ongoing |
| 3.2 Advocate for food security and nutrition in the Victorian Planning Provisions | Community Wellbeing | Ongoing advocacy provided to the Victorian Planning Provisions that allow greater control over food and nutrition security-related developments | Within existing staff resources | Ongoing |
| 3.3 Advocate for the development of a Victorian food security strategy. | Community Wellbeing | Ongoing advocacy provided to all tiers of government | Within existing staff resources | Ongoing |
| 3.4 Adopt a consistent definition of 'food desert' and ensure inclusion and definition of this term within the Darebin Planning Scheme | Community Wellbeing | Definition of 'food desert' created and included within the Darebin Planning Scheme | As per resources allocated in existing strategies and plans | Ongoing |
| | Strategic Planning Environment and Natural Resources | Food deserts across the municipality become formally recognised | | |
| 3.5 Continue to strengthen the food and nutrition security measures of the Darebin Planning Scheme as redevelopments and rezoning occurs in the municipality | Strategic Planning Community Wellbeing | Implementation of food and nutrition security actions in the Reservoir structure Plan and Northland Residential Neighbourhood Precinct Structure Plan | As per resources allocated in existing strategies and plans | Ongoing |
| 3.6 Continue to support community food security programs and initiatives | Community Wellbeing | Increased access to food relief programs by community | Within existing staff resources | Ongoing |

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| through the Community Support Program | | members in their local areas. | | |
| 3.7 Continue to convene the Darebin Emergency Relief Network | Community Wellbeing | Four meetings convened per year | Within existing staff resources | Ongoing |
| 3.8 Continue to implement a Food and nutrition security survey to measure the scope of the issue in Darebin | Community Wellbeing | Consistent, comparable measurement of food and nutrition security causes, characteristics and outcomes | \$20,000 estimated cost. Additional resources required. | Year 1 & 2 |
| | | Survey implemented every three years | | |

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan will be implemented, monitored and reviewed against a set of outputs outlined in the action plan. The overall strategy is set against three Key Performance Indicators outlined below:

| Measure | Current | Target |
|---|---|--|
| Number of local businesses and community food enterprises donating surplus food to food relief programs | Preston Market and Northland Shopping Centre are the biggest donors of surplus food to food relief programs through the partnership with SecondBite | 15% increase in the number of businesses and community food enterprises donating surplus food over the next four years |
| Number of services and organisations in Darebin which adopt food and nutrition guidelines or policies. | No existing measure | Council to support two organisations / services each year to develop and adopt food and nutrition guidelines |
| Number of submissions made to support community partners | Included in three plans | Increase the number of relevant policies which respond to food security and nutrition. |

The Darebin Emergency Relief Network will act as a reference group to guide Council in the implementation of the Action Plan.

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