


KAI SECURITY SECTOR RESEARCH

NIKKI HARNETT - FRESH PERCEPTIONS (AUTHOR)

RENEE BOLKOWY - TE WHATU ORA (PARTICIPANT)

CHRIS BARNARD - HAVE A HEART CHARITABLE TRUST (PARTICIPANT)



Food Security - *“When all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy lifestyle”* - World Health Organisation.

BACKGROUND

Food (or kai) insecurity is a wide reaching issue of national and international significance, gaining more attention after COVID lockdowns exposed weaknesses in our food systems and the following cost of living crisis made food that much harder to afford.

The latest New Zealand Health Survey shows that 27% of children now live in households where food sometimes or often runs out. The Ka Mākona 2024 report delves into the numbers and shows that it is not simply a case of 'bad budgeting'. There just simply isn't enough income to afford food after all the other bills are paid.

With government funding for food support drastically reducing under the current government, even social organisations that would usually help feed those in need, are now faced with having to reduce their support or even close the doors entirely.

ASSESSING LOCAL SITUATION

The purpose of this report was to assess the current status of kai insecurity in the local area and develop grassroots ideas for how to improve kai security in a way that would have the biggest impact on the local community. It was decided that the best start point for the research was speaking to those organisations at the coal face, dealing with these issues on a daily basis.

COUNCIL ALIGNMENT

- Food Security identified as a social sector focus area in the Community Wellbeing Project
- Community gardens are featured strongly in the Community Plans
- Emergency management consideration – Council needs a strong food security network
- Food rescue plays a part in minimising food waste which in turn contributes to carbon emissions for district
- Thank you to WDC for funding this research



A WORD FROM PARTICIPANTS



Renee Bolkowy
Te Whatu Ora

DATA



COLLECTION

An online survey of local social organisations was undertaken alongside in person interviews for those who preferred a face to face discussion.

There was an 86% response rate across the survey platforms.

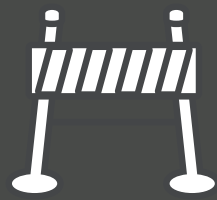


COMPILATION

Responses were summarised and analysed to assess patterns and highlight important feedback.

Where appropriate this was supported with information from other kai security research across the country and information from MSD

KEY BARRIERS



Consistent and adequate funding for social organisations is not always available. This means organisations are constantly having to change their services or look for new funding avenues.



The cost of living was highlighted as one of the main drivers of food insecurity, with even the best budgeting skills not enough to make ends meet.



Lost skills around healthy food, gardening and cooking were also raised as a key barrier to people being able to improve their kai security.



Lack of knowledge around available services and how to access them. Or reluctance to access.



OPPORTUNITIES



Cooperation between organisations to share resources and access bulk buying opportunities.



Education to return the knowledge of growing and preparing nutritious kai to the community. Includes facilities to practise those skills.



Ongoing funding with possibility to centralise the costs of funding, systems and logistics operations so that investment is not duplicated or lost when organisational funding changes.



Publicity for food providers and effort to normalise access

RECOMMENDATIONS



1. A campaign to better inform the public of what options are available to them and the process for accessing them.
2. Coordinated advocacy for the reinstatement or allocation of appropriate funding for emergency food responses.
3. Create a regional kai security coordinator role to centralise and coordinate a response to local kai insecurity. Including supporting cooperation between existing organisations, public education, fundraising, events and logistics.

USE OF REPORT

It is intended that the report can be used to support existing social organisations in their applications for funding and also to help develop programmes to address the underlying issues that influence levels of kai security.

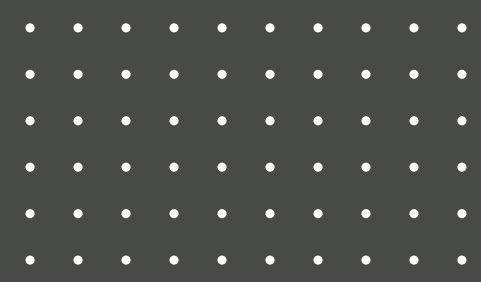
It is hoped that by having a combined report that reflects the experience of a wide variety of organisations, the big picture can be seen and it can add weight to what individual organisations are saying.



A WORD FROM PARTICIPANTS



Chris Barnard
Have a Heart Charitable Trust



THANKYOU