



**Foodbank**  
An Australia Without Hunger



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# banking on **FOOD**

## TOUGHEST CHRISTMAS IN A DECADE

**This year was particularly difficult for Foodbank to secure the items to turn food hampers into Christmas Hampers.**

**At the same time, Christmas was tough for an unprecedented number of people. In one day alone, over 200 agencies withdrew food from the Foodbank for those in food distress, which added to the pressure.**

What turned it into an unexpectedly happy Christmas at the 11th hour was the renowned generosity of heart of Western Australians. They proved it yet again when the business community and the general public rallied together in an amazing food drive.

"Thanks to you, we received many reports of people crying tears of happiness because they knew somebody cared about them and their families," said Foodbank CEO Doug Paling.

In addition to Foodbank's regional centres receiving huge support from their local communities, Centro Shopping Centres offered to place over 50 collection bins in their centres across both the metropolitan and regional areas. This resulted in a massive 8,500kgs of food items being donated.

Underpinning this effort was the continued support of Woolworths management and store staff towards their fresh food rescue program. This is largely directed through Foodbank.

However, it wasn't just tough at Christmas time to secure food donations, it was hard all year for Foodbank to meet its 600 member agencies' needs.

"This was significantly due to a sharp contraction in the number of food producers operating in this state. Through consolidations and takeovers a number have ceased production here and / or have relocated to the Eastern States.

"We are taking a range of actions to ensure regular food supplies in 2010 and beyond," said Doug.



*Foodbank volunteer Lyn Donnelly inspecting the sparse shelves before the Christmas Appeal.*



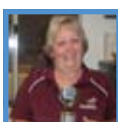
*Hayley Corbett Pfizer's Professional Medical Representative for Alta Healthcare and Nathan Bentley, Regional Business Manager for Primary Care being shown around Foodbank by Greg Hebble.*

### Pfizer donation secures emergency food

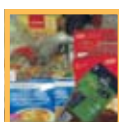
A story on Foodbank in The West Australian prompted leading healthcare and pharmaceutical company Pfizer to give a very generous donation of \$50,000 to us to provide emergency food items to our community welfare agencies for those in most urgent need.

As Foodbank distributes to the majority of agencies, Pfizer felt that their donation would be very effectively utilised to reach the most people. With the support of the food industry we were able to add more value by converting the donation into \$90,000 of shelf stable food.

**NEWS**



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## Chairman with a Vision

Foodbank WA has been fortunate to have the voluntary services, passion and commitment of Denis Ryan OAM who served as Chairman for 11 years from 1999 to 2009. In that role, he also served as a Director of Foodbank Australia.

Denis and the Board of Directors took Foodbank from:

- A cumulative food distribution of 3 million kgs over 5 years and 260 registered community agencies, to 20 million kilos over 15 years (2.2 million kilos in 2009 alone), and 600 community agencies registered.
- In 2001 - 2009 we went from 12 Schools being supplied with breakfast foods to a total of 1.5 million breakfasts being dispensed to over 300 schools.



Denis Ryan OAM

- In 2002 Denis led a capital fundraising campaign so that Foodbank could move out of inadequate premises in Belmont to the existing site in Welshpool, enabling the service to expand.
- Regional Foodbank Centres were established in Peel, Albany, Geraldton and Bunbury, accessing fresh produce and other food sources that now outreach to the remote areas of Western Australia.

Denis is leaving the Foodbank in a strong position and he has helped establish the platform for the future.

## Driving the next decade

Whilst Foodbank is well placed, the next decade is one with considerable challenges for incoming Chairman Mark Crumby.

The key issues for Foodbank are the pressure on levels of traditional sources of donated food and the infrastructure to support the anticipated increased demand from community agencies and the School Breakfast Program.

"Foodbank has embarked on a major infrastructure program supported by Lotterywest and the private sector to position Foodbank to meet the needs of our community for the next 20 years," said Mark.

"It is an ambitious program but one that is absolutely necessary to address head on the growing demand from our agencies. We will be updating the community soon with a major announcement."

Mark has over 10 years in the banking sector, primarily with ANZ Bank and is currently the CEO of Wallis Drilling. He served on the Foodbank Board for three years before moving to Melbourne with ANZ and rejoined on his return in 2008.

## 2009 Volunteer of the Year Awards

We would like to acknowledge the contribution made by our volunteers who are the core of Foodbank. We simply could not provide a caring and cost effective service without them.

### Foodbank Central

**Geoff Williams**, who started working as a volunteer in 1996, initially as a driver and then in the warehouse. He continued until his passing in July 2009. Geoff said that these were some of the happiest years of his life and we are very glad to have had him as part of the Foodbank family.



### Foodbank Albany

**Tammie Fone** is a very worthy recipient. She has been a volunteer for the past 5 years and spends at least 30 hours a week with us. She is very conscientious, hardworking and aware of safety and hygiene issues. Tammie says the staff and volunteers are 'her family'.



### Peel Foodbank

**Kathleen Proudly** really deserves this award. She is a quiet diligent worker who is always helpful. Nothing is too much trouble and she is a good team member.



### Foodbank Geraldton

Five and a half years ago **Gillian Sharp** started volunteering one day a week and now works three half days a week. Her experience in the food industry has been a great asset to Foodbank and she has set a fine example with the presentation of our products.



Courtesy Geraldton Guardian

### Foodbank SouthWest

**Frank and Pauline Field** as a couple create a jovial environment, are kind and work hard. Each works different days and are very client orientated. Frank has a flair for photography and computers and has been a tremendous help.



Both stand in at short notice and Frank accepted all responsibility for management of the Bunbury Centre when Rob Prestage had a leave of absence last year. They are most deserving of the Award.



Chairman Mark Crumby in the warehouse.

*Foodbank WA can collect and store fresh, packaged and frozen food items. A fleet of 8 trucks moves food between Perth and regional centres.*

## Ernst & Young raises \$400,000 for Foodbank



Over 6 years, 108 holes of golf, countless lost golf balls and superb organisation, Ernst & Young has turned their annual Foodbank Charity Golf Classic into a \$400,000 result for Foodbank. Their loyal corporate supporters have converted a fun day into serious help for thousands of adults and children in the community desperate for a regular meal on the table.

Ernst & Young's sponsorship of Foodbank has also been instrumental in enabling us to form collaborations that have greatly magnified our funds.

The sponsorship thus far has provided a substantial deposit, which combined with a Lotterywest grant secured a large truck valued at over \$100,000 to move food around the regions.

Other funds have ensured that the highly successful School Breakfast Program continues to expand, reaping dramatic social and community benefits.

Our research and feedback has shown that the School Breakfast program has a positive impact on learning and behavioural outcomes of the children, and general social outcomes within the immediate school community area.

To be a part of this year's Foodbank Charity Golf Classic please contact Denise Shade on 9258 9277.

## Foodbank Comes of Age early



During 2008-09 WA Community Support Agencies accessed Foodbank 1,635 times per month to withdraw food. This is an average of 80 Agencies per day. In the last six months 1.1 million kilos of food was withdrawn.

**This propelled Foodbank past the 21 million kilos mark for food distribution in a much shorter time than ever anticipated.**

"We worked very hard to source the food to meet this demand and feel we have come of age in all respects," said CEO Doug Paling.

With the number of registered agencies now, we are bursting at the seams at peak times, which are occurring more often. An influx of

much needed food donations in January again highlighted that the present premises are now not large enough to handle the high volume of incoming donations and distributions.

Outside storage is needed and the processing areas are always at full capacity as continuing growth in demand puts more and more pressure on our facility."



## reality bites HARD

**The impact of poverty on a family's life came to light before Christmas when a young mother contacted Foodbank in need of urgent assistance. A carer, and on a pension with two young boys to support, she had 'hit rock bottom'.**

With bills to pay and no money for fuel, she would not be able to feed her children for Christmas. Charlie, from the Foodbank member agency Portcare, came to the rescue, supplying the family with a fantastic food hamper from items withdrawn at Foodbank.

### Young family helps out

A young family in North Perth who have a heart for the community, again donated a large hamper of food to Foodbank worth over \$400 to help a less fortunate family at Christmas.

The recipient was a Grandmother who has been battling cancer and is the prime carer for two grandchildren, aged 7 and 3 years. She was overwhelmed by the generosity of this gesture, which included gifts for each of the children.

### Christmas lunch provides Seeds of Hope

The City Church of Christ held a Christmas dinner for 200 homeless and needy people. Pastor Alex Laloh and Terry McBrydie, along with a treasured group of volunteers, ran the luncheon, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Terry thanked Foodbank for its ongoing support over the last five years.

"The majority of the food items were supplied by Foodbank, including fresh fruit and vegetables and shelf stable items. Without them this program would cease as we are only a small Church with a congregation of 40 - 50 people."



## Foodbank Albany gives and receives

New enquiries have been coming in from Church and youth groups and Aboriginal Progress Associations in Albany and surrounding towns through January. The main requests being for food for camps and activity programs over the summer.

Our very hot summer has unfortunately impacted on supplies of fresh vegetables, however some enterprising local residents spontaneously came forward with excess veges they were growing at home. Foodbank volunteer, May Hawley kindly turned two crates of zucchinis into jars of pickles (shelf life food) to give out.

Soaring temperatures also caused two of the centre's freezer units to blow up. Fortunately South West MP Colin Holt was visiting and saw the problem. He set in train an article in the Albany Weekender, which was picked up by WIN TV and ABC SW. The result was a number of calls and offers from generous individuals, with two good second-hand freezers being chosen.

## Foodbank Geraldton

Sex Crime Division's Child Abuse Squad, which has made significant progress with Operation Reset in the Mid West-Gascoyne District during the past six months, aligned with Foodbank Geraldton to encourage schools to establish a breakfast program for students.

Detective Sergeant Burnett said. "Some of the children are not fed well within their own home, for a number of reasons, so the breakfast lets them start the day with some nourishment, plus it helps reduce truancy rates."

They also teamed up to provide running shoes for children in Mullewa whose parents could not afford them. The shoes have helped prevent injuries among many children who would normally play sport barefoot. Foodbank is supplying ongoing support with fresh fruit and other items for the police to give to the children.

## Foodbank SW & Kate count themselves in

In 2008 Kate Robertson, who is autistic, did work experience at Foodbank through the Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School's work experience program. She loved it so much and the staff and volunteers did too, that Manager Rob Prestage approached Foodbank WA to arrange a part time paid position for her.

It worked out very well and the Bunbury Disability Services Commission nominated Foodbank South West for the 2009 State-wide Count us in Award. This recognises organisations helping to create an inclusive society for people with disabilities.

Foodbank SW was named a Finalist from entrants across the state and we congratulate everyone involved.



Kate Robertson and Manager Rob Prestage. Courtesy of the Bunbury Mail

## Peel Foodbank News

Volunteer Ellen Mitchell, who worked at Peel Foodbank for 10 years, retired recently. Staff and agencies alike will miss her and we wish her well.

Peel had a wonderful response to the Foodbank - Centro Shopping Centre Bin Appeal. All bins were full to overflowing when picked up. Thank you to the generous Mandurah and Rockingham communities for their support.



## School Breakfast Program Benefits

Now that Foodbank's SBP has been in operation for 9 years we are seeing that it is improving student nutrition and academic achievement, as well as reducing student absenteeism and behaviour problems.

The Program has also reduced food insecurity in low socioeconomic status families by reducing the strain on household budgets.

Some of the letters from participating schools:

*"A high proportion of students are frequently in need of support because they have come to school without breakfast and/or provision for lunch. The school has no other food resource other than Foodbank to provide food for these students."*

**Paul Bridge - Derby District HS**

*"The majority of students who attend the breakfast club travel from the outer communities of Tom Price.... they reach school hungry and in some cases not had time to have breakfast before catching their bus... it leaves Paraburdoo at 6.30am as school begins at 7.55am."*

**Raelene Hicks - Tom Price SHS**

*"Many of the refugee children have never accessed simple cutlery items and we teach them how to use them and also table etiquette. This also enhances their learning of English in a situation different to the classroom."*

**Lola Simonette - Liaison Officer Mirrabooka PS**

## Spreading the healthy eating message

Foodbank staff Vanessa Bobongie and Gemma Devenish have been taking the healthy eating message out into the community. They had a stand at the Healthy Kids Healthy Families Expo at Randford Primary School and at the Homeless Persons Week launch. They compared a healthy and unhealthy lunch box, showing the benefits in terms of price and nutrition.

They also handed out free fruit and served up healthy pita bread toasties and grilled vegetables from Foodbank's 'More Deadly Tucker' booklet.