

# Wairarapa Food Insecurity

LUCY COOPER, PLANALYTICS | lucy@planalytics.co.nz | 5 APRIL 2019



## DEFINITION:

Food insecurity exists when people do not have adequate physical, social or economic access to food  
Fao.org, 2019

In 2015/16, around **one in five** under-15 year olds in New Zealand lived in households that experienced moderate to severe food insecurity; representing between **161,000 and 188,000 children**.

Duncanson et al., 2018

## Impacts of food insecurity:



### Adverse health outcomes

Including obesity, diabetes, high stress levels and multiple chronic conditions



### Threat to healthy development

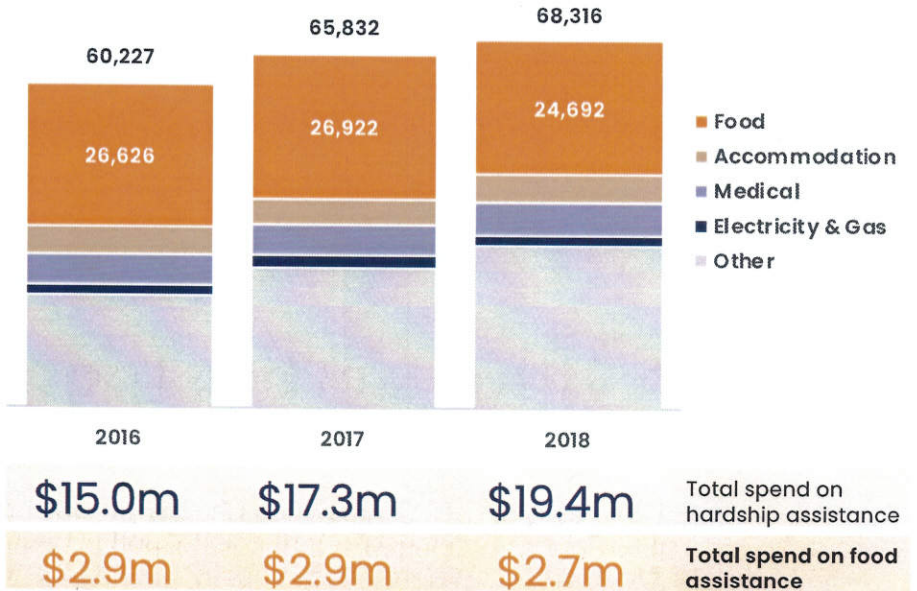
Adolescents at risk of obesity, stand-downs, lower grades, poor diets



### Undermine family and community networks

People can avoid social situations that require food provision

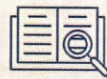
## Number of MSD hardship grants, Wellington region



Source: msd.govt.nz, 2018 for the year ending 30 June



## Methodology:



Literature Review completed on the topic of food insecurity



**18** Interviews with agencies semi-structured interviews involving 25 participants



Analysis of publicly available data on local food initiatives

I'm hungry

I have little or no money to buy food

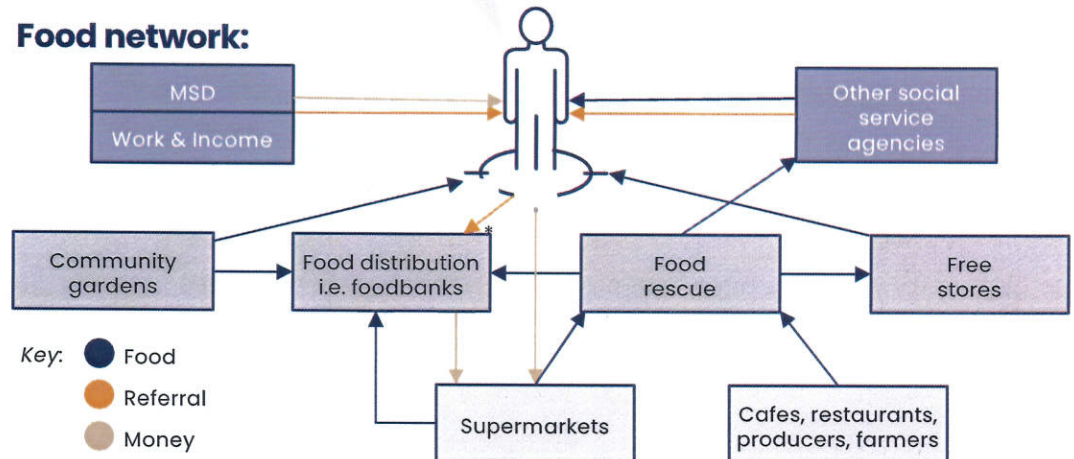
I struggle to make family meals on a tight budget

I go without so my kids can eat

I can't afford fresh, non-processed foods

I can't put enough food on the table

## Food network:



\* Maximum of 3 self-referrals; then agency referrals

# Research Findings

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## NATIONAL CONTEXT

### 1

#### **How has food insecurity been defined and addressed at a national level to-date?**

- Not consistently defined at a national level.
- No coordinated nationwide government response to food insecurity implemented to-date.
- Opportunities exist to produce guidance at a national level to provide a framework for regional and local level responses.

### 2

#### **What food-related initiatives are currently operating successfully outside Wairarapa? What are the lessons learnt?**

- A number of successful food initiatives are operating across the country; food rescue models and free stores are increasingly popular.
- Lessons learnt (such as the importance of a well organised volunteer base and strong web presence) can be applied elsewhere to enhance the impact and operational performance of food networks.

## LOCAL CONTEXT

### 3

#### **Do we know the current, and projected, level of food insecurity in Wairarapa region? If so, what is it?**

- Insufficient data exists to determine the exact level of current food insecurity in Wairarapa.
- Available data suggests a steady increase in food insecurity.
- A number of barriers exist for local people addressing food insecurity.
- Local food agencies do not typically forecast food need into the future, although acknowledge the benefits of doing so.
- Opportunities exist to improve the consistent capture and reporting of food-related data to inform policy and project responses.

### 4

#### **What current (or planned) food-related initiatives are operating in Wairarapa?**

- There are currently approximately 29 initiatives addressing food need across the Wairarapa region.
- Volunteer agencies make up the bulk of the current local food network.
- Most initiatives indicated that they are 'sticking to core business' in the immediate future.

## NEXT STEPS

### 5

#### **What funding sources may be available to resource Wairarapa food-related projects on an on-going basis?**

- Funding is available for food-related projects, however this is generally fragmented and short term in nature.
- Local funding is relatively static, with a core group of funders.

### 6

#### **What would a multi-agency Wairarapa food programme look like and what are the next steps required to initiate implementation?**

- A multi-agency Wairarapa food programme may or may not be of benefit (findings diverge).
- Some initial next steps have been identified by interview participants, and will require ongoing cooperation between parties to refine and implement.

# Wairarapa Food Security Stakeholders

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Name	← ○ →			
	Food distribution	Food rescue	Social service	Community garden
Anglican Church, Martinborough	●			
Carterton Foodbank	●			
Christians Against Poverty			●	
Community Kitchen	●			
Connecting Communities Wairarapa			●	
Equippers Church	●			
Featherston Anglican Church	●			
Featherston Foodbank	●			
Featherston Medical Centre	●			
Good Bitches Baking	●			
IDEA Services			●	
Local Schools	●			
Martinborough Medical Centre & Community Garden	●			●
Masterton Foodbank	●			
Oxford Street Community Garden	●			●
Project M	●			
Rangitāne o Wairarapa			●	
Salvation Army Foodbank	●			
Soulway Church	●			
Te Awhina Cameron Community House	●			
Te Hauora Runanga O Wairarapa			●	
The Lighthouse Church	●			
Wairarapa Free Budget Service			●	
Wairarapa Resource Centre	●			
Wairarapa Safer Community Trust	●		●	
Wairarapa Whānau Trust	●		●	
Waiwaste		●		
Whaiora			●	
Zero Waste		●		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>