

# Strengthening Community Access to Food and Food Security

As part of the COVID-19 Budget 20 package we are supporting communities to meet the additional demand for food that COVID-19 is placing on foodbanks, food rescue and other services.

## COVID-19 Budget Package 2020

**Ensuring the community sector can meet immediate increased demands for food and building food secure communities in the future.**

The Government is investing \$32 million over the next three years to provide support for foodbanks, food rescue and other community organisations who are distributing food.

- Community groups and networks have proved themselves vital in the initial response to COVID-19 in the lockdown period.
- Foodbanks are facing significantly increased demand for food since COVID-19.
- We estimate a half million more people will become vulnerable to food insecurity due to increasing levels of unemployment and economic hardship.
- When Civil Defence Emergency Management steps down from supporting foodbanks, this funding ensures that longer-term support can take over.
- Foodbanks, food rescue and other community food organisations will receive \$24 million to meet the increased demand for food from people, families and whānau over the next two years and to plan for longer-term food security in their communities.
- This investment will help make sure foodbanks have enough food by funding:
  - \$5.5 million for a bulk food storage and distribution network, for sending company-donated surplus food around the country to meet foodbanks' and food rescue orders.
  - \$1.3 million to two umbrella organisations to increase and strengthen support for the food security sector, including collaborating for joined-up community systems and sharing best practices for food rescue, foodbanks and other community food services.
- We'll collaborate closely with community food partners to support them to make the most of this investment in food for communities and future food security.
- While COVID-19 is putting enormous pressure on individuals and communities, it's also creating opportunities to innovate and improve food systems.
- This initiative will result in an additional 21 million meals each year being delivered through foodbanks and other organisations, at a cost of \$0.71cents a meal.
- Wider community benefits will include about 6,200 tonnes less food going to landfill and 2,238 tonnes less CO<sup>2</sup> emissions.
- The new funding will reduce pressure on New Zealand's food supply chains and benefit the environment.
- Foodbanks and other community organisations will be better placed to manage future shocks and provide greater food security for vulnerable New Zealanders.

Costs (operating) \$m				
2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	TOTAL
2.0m	15.0m	15.0m	-	<b>32.0m</b>