

**Election 2022:**

# **THE RIGHT TO FOOD MATTERS**



Australia is a wealthy nation, but did you know:

1. 1.2 million kids in Australia are food insecure and go to school hungry and unable to concentrate. Of these, 43% go without food for the whole day at least once a week (Food Bank *Hunger Report 2021*)
2. Food insecurity is now affecting young working families. In 2021, as a result of the pandemic, more people seeking assistance (64%) had some form of employment, compared to those who had none. (Food Bank *Hunger Report 2021*)
3. During the pandemic, people in households with very low food security were 7 times as likely to report poor mental health. (<https://doi.org/10.3390/nu13124262>)

You probably know someone who is food insecure. Emergency and charity food donations saw demand for their services double and triple during the pandemic - but this is a bandaid solution to a basic human right.

This election has seen increased focus on cost of living and with this we must consider accessibility of food. What people are able to eat is often amongst the first factors affected by changes to cost of living, with many having to sacrifice food to pay rent and utilities.

The right to food is a human right that all people living in Australia must have.

## **We call on MPs and Candidates to pledge to the following actions:**

1. A coordinated bi-partisan approach across all levels of government (Federal/State/local) through policy, monitoring and funding.
2. A National Food Security Policy based on the principles of food justice.
3. Increase income support payments to above the poverty line and index these payments to wage growth, to ensure purchasing-power for healthy food.

**Australia's Right to Food Coalition**

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