

TCP Insights Report

TCP Connect Webinar "Navigating COVID Together Series' Episode Two – A conversation with Ian Laing from Foodbank Australia, Wed 15 April 2020

Topic

Foodbank Australia discusses the issue of food scarcity, and the impacts of COVID-19.

About Foodbank Australia

Foodbank Australia is the country's largest not-for-profit food relief organisation, providing access to food for people experiencing vulnerability in Australia. Prior to COVID-19, Foodbank was responsible for 72 percent of food relief across the country, offering 1,350,000 meals per week to 815,000 Australians. Foodbank support 2400 charities across Australia with food supply, and further supply 3000 schools around the country with their 'Schools Breakfast Program', allowing young Australians access to a nutritious breakfast at school to promote growth and development.

Problems Statement

Food scarcity is a serious risk for many Australians, with over five million Australians experiencing food insecurity in the last 12 months. This situation has only been worsened by the drought, bushfires, and now the current pandemic. With these factors, organisations such as Foodbank Australia have seen dramatic increases in demand for food support, and yet there are numerous factors that have resulted in a decrease of supply, increasing the risk of Australians going hungry. With 12-13% of the population living in and around a bread line at any given time prior to COVID-19 (Breadline being when someone is one small event away from food becoming a discretionary item), the impacts of Bill Shock could be crippling, with even minor economic changes having the capacity to drastically impact a person's capacity to access food.

Insights

Prior to COVID-19:

- Foodbank support 2400 charities around the country with food supply
- They supply 3000 schools around the country with their 'Schools Breakfast Program'
- Foodbank look after 72% of food relief around the country
- They provide approximately 1.35 million meals per week to 815,000 people around the country
- Foodbank look after 72% of food relief around the country
- 12-13% of the population are living in and around a bread line at any given time (Breadline being a term to mean that the person is one small event away from food becoming a discretionary item)
- They rescue 820 tonnes of food per week from supply chain

- About 84-85% of food managed by Foodbank is rescued and the rest is made themselves in conjunction with partners and supply chains
- Demand for food support is on a 10% growth and has been for over 10 years now
- About 3.7 million dollars of corporate income per year
- Can turn every \$1 donated into \$5 of food

Post COVID-19:

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, 27% of their supported charities ceased food relief operations and a further 10% have reduced amount of days they're offering services
- Foodbank have seen an over 50% spike in demand for food supply in the last 3 weeks
- The 815,000 people supplied food has jumped in number to over 1.2 million people
- Coles sales figures were 168% above a Christmas week at their peak
- Woolworths and Coles are still trading 9% above a normal week
- Foodbank have had a 27% decline in volume of food coming in versus a 50% rise in demand
- Seen more than doubling of searches on resources such as ask izzy around food relief in last ten days alone
- Foodbank normally rely on approximately 1000 volunteers around the country each week, if they must pay for this labour on the open market the cost would be approx. \$150,000 per week
- 92-93 percent of corporate volunteer bookings are gone and will be until august/September this year
- Some corporate partners have cut donations from \$500,000 to \$0

Key Contacts

[Ian Laing, Foodbank Australia](#)

Resource Links

- [TCP Connect Webinar "Navigating COVID Together Series' Episode Two - A conversation with Ian Laing from Foodbank Australia, Wed 15 April 2020](#)
- [Blog Spot - COVID-19 Ian Laing Foodbank Australia](#)