



Food security policy City of Darebin

Overview

In 2008 the City of Darebin undertook several food-related activities, including the Good Food Alliance and student projects such as the Healthy Food Basket Survey. As a result of these activities the City of Darebin, together with Banyule City Council and Hobsons Bay City Council, received funding from the (formerly) Department of Human Services, to develop a more strategic response to food security for their municipal areas in the form of a *Food security policy*.

Putting plans into action

Development of the Darebin *Food security policy* began in May 2008. The following activities were undertaken and outline the extensive data and research that formed the basis of the policy:

- a brief background report detailing the policy context and determinants of food security
- a literature review of local government's role in food security completed by LaTrobe University
- a community survey on access to food in Darebin, including the use of emergency relief and food growing
- a demographic review of Darebin's population to understand the population groups identified as vulnerable to food insecurity to target interventions effectively
- geographic information system (GIS) mapping of local food supply and accessibility
- stakeholder analysis and engagement, both internal and external. Some of the questions asked included:
 - Who are the key players?
 - What are their links with food security?
 - What are they already doing in this space?
 - What opportunities are there for further action?
- a series of workshops with council staff.

The final policy was endorsed at the end of 2009. It highlights five key areas for local government to play a role in community food security. These include:

1. Advocacy for food security leadership and resources
2. Planning a sustainable and accessible urban environment
3. Leading by example
4. Community development around healthy and sustainable food
5. Partnerships and knowledge building.

Key factors for success

- Knowing your organisation, who the key players are, what they are doing, and what they care about. This knowledge can be used to help leverage the policy around these factors.
- A rigorous investigative and consultative approach led to a good outcome with the final product.

Other

A range of activities are being implemented as a result of the policy. In 2012, the council began developing a food bank network. One of the first successes of this project has been brokering a partnership between Preston Market and SecondBite to collect food waste from the market. The council is also currently working with emergency relief providers to determine the infrastructure they need to store and distribute fresh food.

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Further information

City of Darebin website: <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au> (search for 'food security policy')

Direct link: http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=8507.

The information in this case study was obtained through discussion with Melissa Morrison, Health Projects Coordinator, City of Melbourne (formerly Health Planner at City of Darebin) and Jess Fraser (above). Information is correct as at mid-2012.

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