

Heaven's Kitchen & Community Food Shed

SHARING STORIES... LOCAL ACTION ON FOOD SECURITY

Determinant of food security:

Food Access

Sub-determinant:

Emergency Food Relief

Location & year:

Municipality of Devonport
NW Tasmania

Story tellers:

Carol Bryant Devonport City Council

Cheryl Jones Coordinator
Gateway Church

Kate Beer Manager
Devonport Community House

Summary

The Devonport City Council in recent years has increased its support to emergency food relief programs. The aim is to achieve a more integrated model to improve food security for those most risk.

Together services such as the Gateway Church and the Devonport Community House will improve access to food particularly fresh produce and offer supporting education programs.

Most volunteers are local, and knowing their community's needs they are able to provide a targeted service. Manager Devonport Community House



Benefits and achievements

Heavens Kitchen has grown over many years from operating as a small service to a regular weekly event at the Gateway Church site with up to 80 community members attending.

The *Food for all Tasmanians* grant has allowed the service to increase in professionalism offering a safe, quality meal and social evening out.

Increased funding has enabled Devonport Community House's Food Shed to become a daily operation. Second bite® with its twice weekly deliveries of fresh produce has allowed the range on offer improve in quality, quantity and freshness.

Overall one of the most significant outcomes is the way both services can offer universal access. The social inclusion benefits are noteworthy with many recipients of the programs feeling more connected with other community members and comfortable about accessing other services that can improve their health and wellbeing.

Challenges

An ongoing challenge is ensuring access to a regular supply of quality fresh produce to stock the community food shed and to provide quality, nutritious meals to community members attending Heavens Kitchen weekly meal service.

It is also important to ensure the programs are as inclusive as possible to provide the best opportunity for those most at risk to participate.

Social interaction has proven one of the unintended benefits of the Food Program.
Kate Beer, Manager Devonport Community House



Promotion

Heavens Kitchen is well known in the community and many services refer clients to the service. Invitation to attend the cooking programs has been through approaching community members one on one whilst they attend the meal service.

The Community Food Shed operates every week day. Bright orange volunteer aprons and a colourful flag banner that is displayed in the street trade mark the service. The friendly and welcoming volunteers provide a comfortable and safe space for interaction.



Funding

The programs received additional funding through a *Food for All Tasmanians* Fund Grant 2012. This has provided some surety to the services, the staff and most importantly to the community members who rely on their services. It has allowed the opportunity to offer additional services such as cooking programs.

There is a strong community volunteer commitment to both programs. In-kind support and goods provided through donations from local individuals, businesses and farming community.

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Information was compiled by **Population Health Services (DHHS)** in partnership with this initiative and the Department of Premier and Cabinet.