

# Case Study

Increasing food security for University of Tasmania (UTAS) students.

## Background

Cost of living and food insecurity are significant issues facing over 40% of UTAS students, that has been exacerbated by the pandemic and world supply chain impacts. The need for action has reached a critical point. Along with this, Australia wastes approximately 7.6 million tonnes of food each year, and 70% of this is perfectly edible.

## Solution

To address this issue, TUSA has established a Food Security Program to create an equitable secure food system that provides:

- Meaningful engagement, culturally appropriate and nutritious food
- Education and events
- Food relief and affordable food options
- Student employment, learning and volunteering experiences.

## Objectives

- To provide direct food relief to students to decrease food insecurity through the establishment of a Food Hub.
- To increase students' knowledge and practical skill development regarding food education, including nutrition, cooking, gardening, food preservation and sustainable food practices.
- More university student cohorts eat according to the Australian Dietary Guidelines.
- To increase students sense of community.

## Challenge

- 42% of UTAS students experience food insecurity.

## Solution

- The establishment of a 3-year TUSA Food Security Program.
- Implementation of a Food Hub (Sandy Bay) in July 2023.

## Results

- 93% of students indicated that the Food Hub had a positive impact on their level of food security.
- 88% of students indicated they were satisfied with the Food Hub and 94% would recommend it to other students.

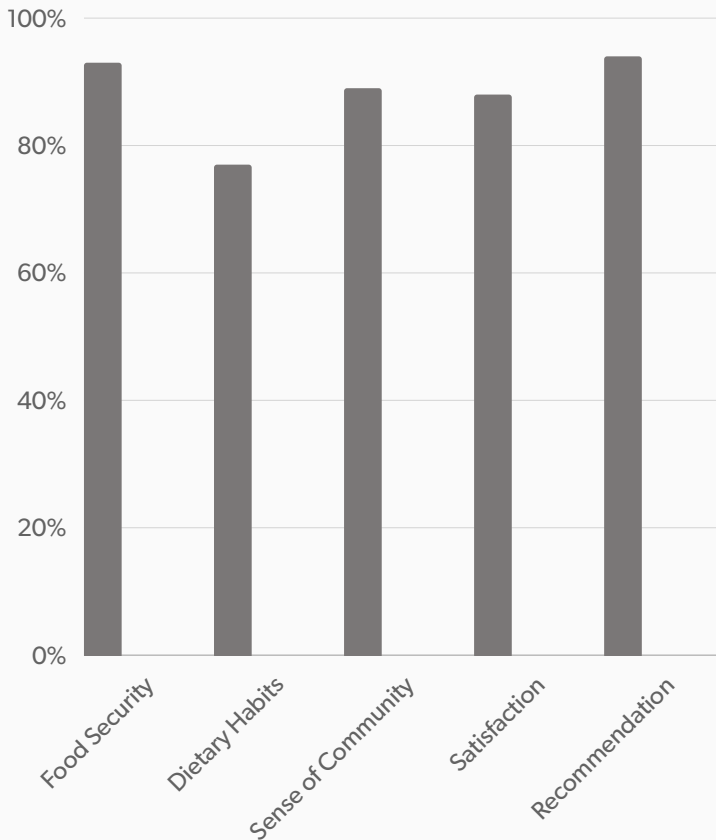
**3085** students accessed the Food Hub (July - Dec 2023)



**250kg+** of rescued fruit and vegetables redistributed weekly in the Food Hub to students through our partnership with Loaves & Fishes, along with staple pantry items

**20kg+** of donated bread redistributed weekly in the Food Hub to students through our partnership with Gateway Life

## Results - Food Hub



## Next Steps

- Continuation of the Food Hub in 2024.
- \$60k grant funding secured to implement the Food Education Project in March 2024 (Hobart).
- Look into alternate food sources to expand the current Food Hub and implement Food Hubs at other campuses.
- Consider potential arrangements to establish a Social Enterprise Cafe (Sandy Bay).

## Student Testimonials

“Positive staff and professional attitude towards food distribution. The student volunteers are always kind and helpful.”

“It provides all necessary food items at a moment and we can save our food expenses because of TUSA.”

“It is well operated with ticketing systems ensuring all students have the opportunity to access the Food Hub services.”

