



ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024

 **Aotearoa**
 **Food**
 **Rescue**
 **Alliance**

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He hua toe he hua tohutohu

LEFTOVER FOOD IS FOR SHARING



FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

STU ENNOR

I am sitting at my desk writing this. It's early in the morning, the rest of the house is tucked up in bed fast asleep, so is the neighbourhood, so is my city, so is my country. It's the dawning of a new day, and you may know that the coldest part of the day is before the sun comes up, and if you're from Canterbury, if it's a frost, it's going to be a good day.

Why do I start with that, well I believe it paints a bit of a narrative for AFRA members. We have come out of the Covid era, and into a new environment where there is competition for funding, jousting for market presence and position, and often we need to search far and wide for food to rescue. To be honest, it's been a bit ugly and cold out there at times.

You know the coldest part of the day dawns a new era, a new day and my hope for AFRA members is as the frost melts, it's going to be a good day - it's simply "better together". We need to come together as an Alliance and support one another. There's a long hard road before us and we simply won't get there unless we are united.

This year has been a big one. Firstly, we said farewell to Dawn Hutchesson, AFRA's first GM. Dawn put AFRA on the map and led us well during COVID. On behalf of the board and members, I would like to once again thank Dawn for all she did for AFRA.

It also sees Matt Dagger leave us. Matt was one of the instrumental founders of AFRA. He has given his all (and more) to AFRA, and we wish him well in his new endeavours and are so grateful for the time, energy and knowledge he put into AFRA.

We are now in an exciting new era, with a new strategy plan underway, which has been shaped by you all. We look forward to sharing the final version for endorsement with you at our 2024 AGM, as we continue to shape the future of AFRA together.

AFRA has a bright future ahead. Just look across the country and see each day all of our members head down working hard to rescue food and get it to those who need it! Look at the energy, the hours that are put in by individual originations and then look at the impact nationwide! We are truly a food rescue alliance, richly driven by so many reasons, at times fiercely independent with one common goal — we are truly better together!

Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi -
With your basket and my basket, the people will live.

Last year I challenged us all to come together. I look forward to this year's Hui, where we will come together and encourage each other, laugh, learn, and eat kai. It's going to be GOOD!

My hope is we can all come together, sharing our dāta to strengthen AFRA advocacy, supporting one another, putting (at times) our own agenda aside for the greater good of food rescue, sharing ideas and resources that can strengthen other members, even when our own organisations may not benefit. That's some of what it's going to take to become "better together".

I am so thankful for AFRA's sponsors, the Hoku Foundation, Foodstuffs, Woolworths NZ and MSD. Thank you all for your ongoing support, without you, AFRA would not exist! And as I write my last Chair's report, I would also like to thank the AFRA staff for all the work you do. You are only a small team, but your workload and output are truly amazing! Thank you all for your support, I could not have done it without a wonderful board and great staff to work with, it has been a pleasure!

Thank you, members, too. AFRA would not be what is without you. Lean in, support one another, visit, call each other, and do whatever it takes to keep being "better together". I would like to propose "the future is brighter, stronger and better together." Let the new day dawn together!

Nga mihi nui,

Stuart Ennor
AFRA Board Chair

OUR MEMBERS

**Northland and Auckland
Te Tai Tokerau & Tāmaki-makau-rau**

PERFECTLY IMPERFECT, SOUTH KAPARA FOOD, AUCKLAND CITY MISSION, WRT WAIHEKE RESOURCES TRUST, KIWIHARVEST, LOVE SOUP, ff fair food, Sunday Blessings, The Salvation Army, Hale, Kai Go, TE OPE WHAKAORA, TRANSFORMING GOODNEIGHBOUR COMMUNITIES, Taupo Community Food Bank, FEEDING FORUM

**Bay of Plenty
Te Moana-a-Toi**

Friendship House, JUST Zilch, GO! CO, TE OPE WHAKAORA, WHANGANUI KAI HUB, THE HOUSE, THE FOOD BASKET, TE OPE WHAKAORA, Nourished & Nil, SuperGrans Manawatu

Waikato, Taranaki, Manawatu-Whanganui

**Gisborne and Hawke's Bay
Te Tai Rāwhiti & Te Matou-a-Māui**

**West Coast & Nelson
Te Tai Poutini & Whakatū**

Nelson Environment Centre, Kai Puku FOOD HUB, POUTINI WAI OIA, Nelson Environment Centre, SATISFY FOOD RESCUE, KAIROS FOOD RESCUE, TE OPE WHAKAORA, KAIROS FOOD RESCUE, KIWIHARVEST, FOOD RESCUE AORAKI, TE OPE WHAKAORA, Christchurch City Mission, Te Whare Māhara ki Ōtautahi, The Salvation Army

**Wellington, Wairarapa & Horowhenua
Te Whanga-nui-a-Tara, Wairarapa & Horowhenua**

kaibosh FOOD RESCUE, Free Store WELLINGTON, Kapiti Foodbank, WAI WASTE FOOD RESCUE, Kiwi Community Assistance, TE OPE WHAKAORA, FREE MIX - FREE STORE, The Salvation Army

**Otago & Canterbury
Ōtākou & Waitaha**

**Southland
Murihiku**

TE OPE WHAKAORA, KIWIHARVEST

**Aotearoa
Food
Rescue
Alliance**

OUR MEMBERS

Our alliance is made up of independent food rescue organisations across Aotearoa, all doing important mahi within their communities, to rescue quality surplus kai and ensure it feeds communities not landfill.

Within the year, we welcomed three new members, Christchurch City Mission, Kapiti Foodbank, and Foodbank Aoraki, bringing our total membership to 36 food rescue organisations.



OUR MEMBERS' COLLECTIVE

MAHI in 2024

This year our members:



**Rescued
8.3 million kg**

of surplus,
quality kai



**Distributed
9.8 million kg**

of quality kai into
the community

This combined mahi:



**Prevented
22 million kg**
of carbon dioxide
equivalent
emissions



**Provided
27.9 million**
meals into the
community
(equivalent)



**Delivered
\$73.2 million**
worth of quality
food into the
community



**Saved
6.9 billion**
litres of water from
unnecessary use

Numbers based on AFRA's 2024 member survey, within the period 30 June 2023 - 1 July 2024.

OUR BOARD



Stuart Ennor (Chair)

Stuart loves helping people and coming from a youth worker background he sees such a connection between food rescue and reaching out to help people. Stuart leads the team at Kairos Food Rescue in Christchurch. This is a free store and food distribution warehouse model. Kairos has become a key hub in the city for food redistribution. He also leads The Christchurch Food Bank Network, which gets the food banks in Christchurch together to share food and resources. He is passionate about collaboration and the power of what can be achieved when we work together.



David Savage

Specialising in leadership and collaboration, David Savage is a coach and trainer with nearly 20 years of experience. He's coached leaders on the post-earthquake Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team and the Memorial Park Alliance in Wellington, as well as numerous not-for-profit organisations here in New Zealand and in the Pacific. Having travelled to different parts of the world and witnessing first-hand poverty and deprivation, he's excited to be part of the AFRA board and see its members make such a tangible and positive difference to people and the planet.



Kate Porter

An experienced communications and reputation leader, Kate is also a founding member of New Zealand Food Waste Champions 12.3. Kate was previously Head of Communications and Community for Countdown and Woolworths New Zealand and has strong relationships across the food rescue and food charity sectors. She advocates for the inclusion of food rescue as a critical part of Aotearoa's waste infrastructure, playing both an environmental and social role in reducing food waste and food poverty.

OUR BOARD



Pete Nicholas

Pete is of Ma'uokean - Ngāti Te'akatauirā - and Pākehā descent. Due to his strong social and environmental justice values, he leapt at the chance to be involved with Whkaora Kai - Food Rescue Northland in 2017. He considers himself fortunate to hold this values-driven position but desires a future where food insecurity is non-existent, and the seriousness of climate change is avoided. Pete's term on the board ended on 24 April 2024.



Rebecca Culver

Rebecca is the Managing Director of Just Zilch, which serves Palmerston North and the wider region. Rebecca has assisted a dozen free stores to open around the country and inspired people overseas as well. Rebecca is passionate about food rescue and the diverse range of practices, including free stores and food rescue distribution. She wants to see rescue models throughout New Zealand and access to good food for everyone.



Simone Gibson

Simone Gibson is GM at Awhina Taupō Community Foodbank having relocated from Tauranga at the end of 2023. Her introduction to the food rescue sector came with her role at Good Neighbour Aotearoa Trust in Tauranga starting in 2020. Bringing business experience and a passion for innovation and collaboration Simone is keen to see AFRA members learn from one another, join forces to raise the sector's profile, and achieve sustainability for the longevity of food rescue in Aotearoa.

OUR BOARD



Christina McBeth

Christina has been passionate about social issues since she was a child and has always liked volunteering. She found food rescue to be the perfect platform to address her desire to help others in a sustainable way, while addressing the food waste issue. A mother of three boys and trained as a Chiropractor, she is happily married and living in Havelock North.



Stef Van Meer

Stef Van Meer is Manager of Satisfy Food Rescue, a food rescue charity serving North Canterbury and Christchurch. She has been an integral part of developing and growing Satisfy's brand, strategic direction and organisational culture over the past seven years to become what it is today. Stef's short but enjoyable time on the AFRA board this year has been a valuable experience in learning more about governance on a national scale.



Susie Robertson

Susie Robertson is the Kaiarahi/CE of Kaibosh Food Rescue, which has three branches across the Greater Wellington region. Susie has a long working history in the charity sector, with a background in youth health and development and social marketing. Her passion is working with the community for the good of people and the planet. When she isn't working, she loves getting into the bush with her family and dog. Susie believes in freely sharing knowledge and resources, and so is deeply supportive of the AFRA alliance model, and the benefits it can have for all its members. She is also the co-chair and an independent member on the board of Environment Hubs Aotearoa, another nationwide membership organisation.



FROM OUR INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER IAIN LEES-GALLOWAY

Futurist Alvin Toffler said, "Change is not merely necessary to life - it is life." Change is what drives us to grow and evolve. Without change, we stagnate, and progress halts. Change is vital. Change is constructive. Change is life.

That should be good news to everyone at AFRA because our last year has been one of considerable change.

Most notably, we farewelled our inaugural General Manager, Dawn Hutchesson. In her three years with AFRA, Dawn helped establish a brand new organisation, employed the whole complement of staff, set strategies and operational plans, secured funding and delivered on the expectations of members and stakeholders. We deeply appreciate the contribution Dawn made to making AFRA a sustainable and impactful operator in the food rescue sector. We wish her the very best for her future.

Another farewell was to Megan Hughes who also made an enormous contribution to establishing AFRA. Megan's communications and data work is invaluable and we continue to build on the foundations she set.

We welcomed Rohan Reid to the role of Communications Lead and Quinn Moffat to the Data Lead role. Separating these roles has allowed Rohan and Quinn to focus on improving the resources we develop with members and the usability of the data platform. It is an immense joy to work with Rohan and Quinn and to see their work delivering tangible benefits for members.

At the beginning of the year, we welcomed food rescue expert, Matt Dagger, as our Member Liaison and at the end of the year, we bid him farewell. We are incredibly grateful that Matt chose to dedicate one more year to Food Rescue before moving on to new challenges. His contribution to AFRA and the sector as a whole will never be forgotten.

Our membership continues to grow. We welcomed Christchurch City Mission, Kapiti Foodbank, and Foodbank Aoraki to our whānau bringing our total membership to 36 by year's end.

We also welcomed new, temporary board members to strengthen members' voice in the governance of our alliance. Stef Van Meer, Susie Robertson, and Christina McBeth all stepped up at short notice to help steer AFRA through this period of change. I want to thank the whole AFRA Board for their magnificent contributions and support as we navigated the various matters our alliance has needed to address in the second half of this year.

At the prompting of members, we embarked on a refresh of our alliance's strategy. We purposefully made this a member-driven exercise, initiated with workshops at the Regional Hui and continued by consultation on drafts of the document. My heartfelt thanks to everyone who has participated in that work, which we anticipate will result in a new, member-focussed strategy for AFRA from September 2024.

The approach taken to developing the strategy reflects a general change in approach in the way AFRA operates. We have moved away from acting as a separate organisation that provides services to food rescue organisations to being what our name says we are - an alliance of food rescue organisations working together to make a greater impact collectively. Several member working groups have been formed to lead work on our National Hui, Advocacy Strategy, and Second Harvest. This reflects our aspiration for AFRA to be an alliance of members supporting members. I expect we will see greater use of member working groups and peer-to-peer support in the future.

A specific topic of extensive conversation is how AFRA will develop our cultural practices, especially in relation to Te Ao Māori and how we might embrace Te Tiriti as our guide. In February 2024, the AFRA Board agreed to resource a project to embark on this work. Given the management and governance changes that subsequently occurred, that work was paused. At the Regional Hui, members indicated a strong desire for AFRA to move in this direction. We circulated the Board paper for feedback and members largely endorsed it. I look forward to working with the Board to progress this work in the year ahead.

The change of Government brought with it a lot of questions for food rescue organisations. Would our funding be secure? Would food security be a priority? Would our role in our communities be valued? We worked hard to get onto new Ministers' radars and to engage with new Government MPs. The two-year Food Secure Communities funding appropriated in Budget 2023 remained in place at Budget 2024 and we will work alongside the Government to encourage them to provide greater funding security in future Budgets. We were privileged to meet with Social Development Minister Louise Upston soon after the election and we look forward to hosting her at our National Hui in September 2024.

While all this has been going on, members have carried on the vital work of rescuing food, reducing food waste and feeding their communities. Some things don't change and, sadly, the relentless increase in need for food relief continues unabated. I want to acknowledge the commitment and effort of everyone working for, volunteering for, supplying to and supporting AFRA member organisations. You do it often for little or no reward and very little recognition. But you do it because someone must and because you have passion for your community and environment. Ngā mihi ki a koutou.

I also acknowledge our various partners in Food Rescue: The Ministry for Social Development and Employment, New Zealand Food Network, Kore Hiakai, Woolworths New Zealand, Foodstuffs, Food Waste Champions 12.3, the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Ministry for the Environment. We can only achieve what we do with your support.

It has been a privilege to serve as Interim General Manager. I look forward to getting AFRA's new strategy in place soon. From that will come an operational plan, a budget, a determination of our staffing needs to deliver that plan and the appointment of a permanent General Manager. I am confident the changes we are making together will stand AFRA in great stead for the future.

Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei. Pursue excellence - should you stumble, let it be to a lofty mountain.

Nāku noa nā,

Iain Lees-Galloway
Interim General Manager

SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS ACROSS FOUR KEY PILLARS

At AFRA, we support our food rescue members across four key pillars: Advocacy, Best Practice, Capacity Building and Collaboration. Here is a high-level view of some of the key operational highlights and activities we worked on over the reporting period.

ADVOCACY

AFRA made significant strides in advocating for food rescue policies this last financial year. We published an election manifesto urging political parties to commit to supportive policies and organised an election forum, hosted by Fair Food, with participation from National, Labour, Greens, ACT and TOP. To further raise awareness, we released a “scorecard” evaluating political parties’ positions on food rescue.

Post Election 2024, we sent briefings to the new Ministers of Social Development, Environment, and Food Safety. While we successfully met with the Ministers of Social Development and Food Safety, the Minister for the Environment has, to date, declined to meet. We maintain regular contact with MSD, MfE, MPI, and supermarket partners, and have initiated discussions about future funding with these partners. Additionally, we met with The Warehouse Group to establish high-level relationships and were invited to participate in their Zero Waste strategy workshop.

Our submissions to the COVID-19 Royal Commission and IRD helped lead to positive outcomes, including a permanent tax change benefiting businesses that donate food for rescue. Throughout the year, we also produced ten monthly Pānui to share news and celebrate the successes of our members and partners.



BEST PRACTICE

To enhance member support, we established the Member Liaison role, providing expert advice and assistance to our network. In this role, Matt Dagger visited over 25 members to identify growth opportunities and share expertise, complemented by multiple information-sharing webinars. We commenced the development of new information resources and initiated a refresh of AFRA's website and Resource Hub, with completion expected early next year. Additionally, we began building a new interface for our data platform to improve user experience and support best practice in data gathering and reporting.



CAPACITY BUILDING

AFRA focused on strengthening leadership and professional skills across the alliance. We facilitated food rescue organisation (FRO) managers attending a three-day leadership training course (with more FRO leaders to take part over the next financial year), along with holding regular professional development webinars for members. Our National and Regional hui featured a range of professional development workshops. In response to the closure of Foodbank Canterbury, we supported our members in stepping up to fill the gap.

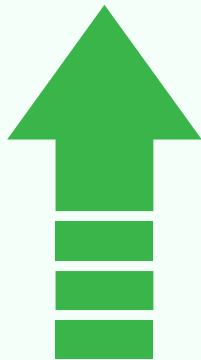
COLLABORATION

This year, AFRA facilitated strong connections within the alliance by delivering one National Hui and four Regional Hui alongside our members. We initiated member working groups to harness collective expertise for various projects and services. To further enhance collaboration, we encouraged the use of Slack among members, enabling them to engage, share knowledge, and tackle challenges together.

ANNUAL MEMBERS'S SURVEY 2024

34 AFRA MEMBERS TOOK PART IN THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL SURVEY. BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SURVEY.

demand, value, challenges



100% of members

EXPERIENCED AN **INCREASE IN THE DEAMAND** FOR FOOD IN 2024

30%

said demand **slightly increased**

70%

said demand **dramatically increased**



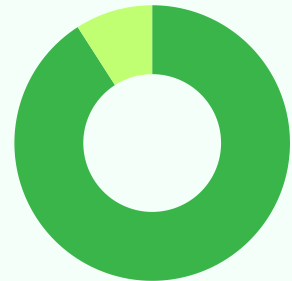
76% of members

agree that their role is **valued by both MSD and local councils**

100% AGREE THEIR FOOD RESCUE ORGANISATION IS VALUED BY THEIR COMMUNITY.



Agree
9.1%

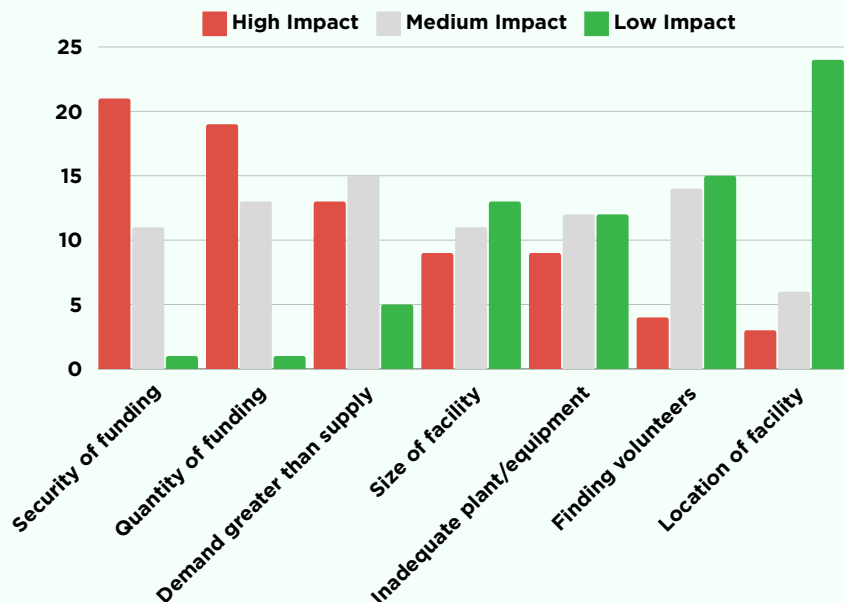


Strongly Agree
90.9%



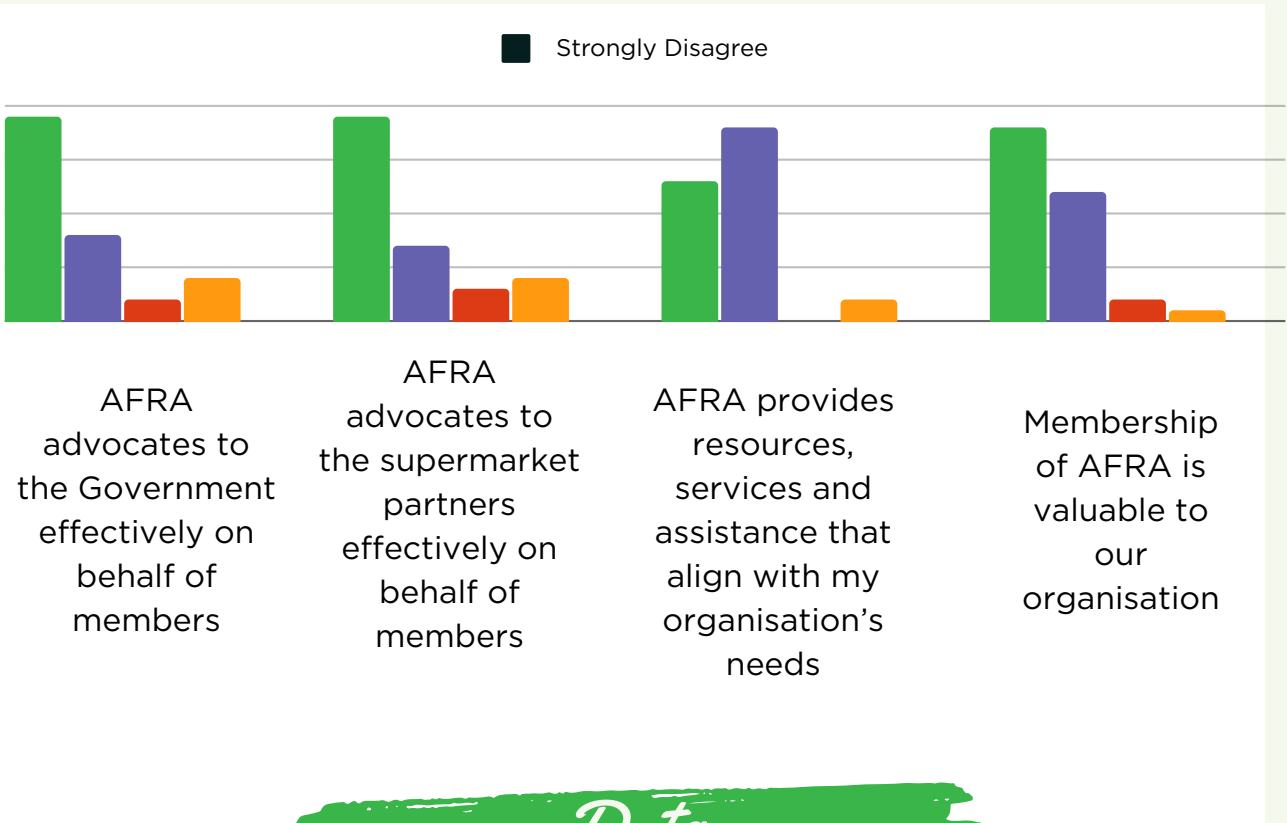
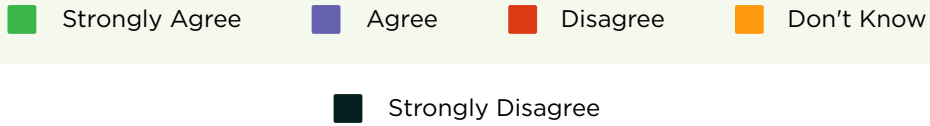
Challenges

Organisations were asked to rank the following challenges based on the impact on their organisation:



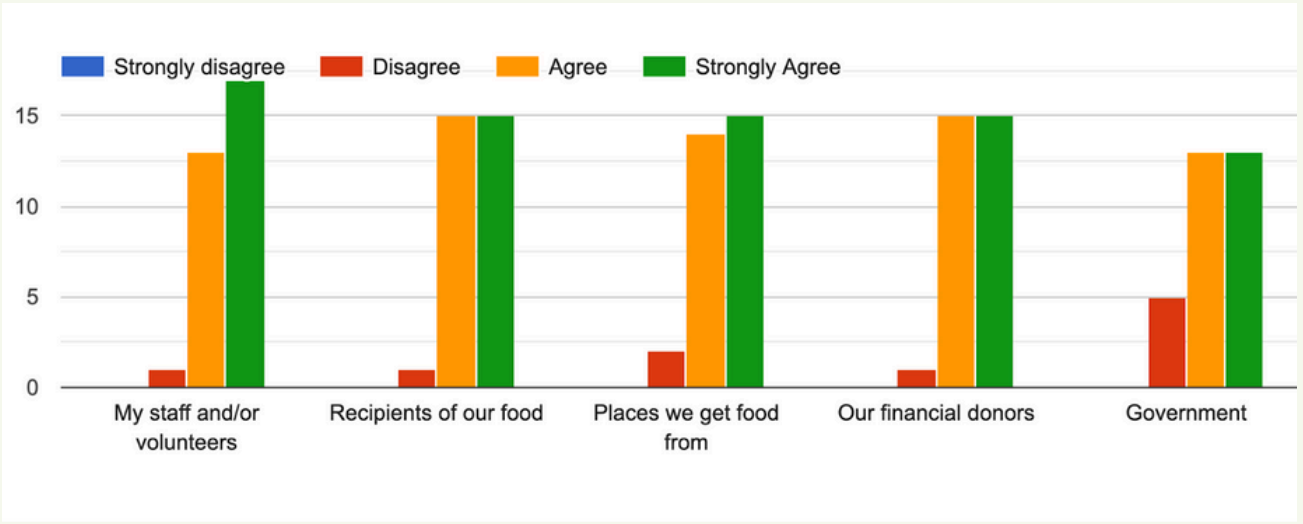
How we're doing at AFRA

MEMBERS WERE ASKED HOW WE ARE DOING IN THE BELOW AREAS:



Data

MEMBERS WERE ASKED IF THEY HAVE ACCESS TO DATA THAT THEY ARE CONFIDENT TO COMMUNICATE WITH....



OUR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HUI

WOOLWORTHS NZ FOOD RESCUE PARTNERS SUMMIT AND AFRA HUI 2023

In September 2023, we held our annual Countdown (now Woolworths NZ) Food Rescue Partners Summit and AFRA Hui, in Ōtautahi Christchurch. We celebrated the inspiring collaboration and dedication of our member organisations from across the country, all uniting in the fight against food waste while feeding our communities.

We heard from some inspiring speakers, including Mike Curtain, CEO of DC Central Kitchen, Kaitlin Dawson, Executive Director Executive Director of NZ Food Waste Champions 12.3 and Joseph Hullen. We shared stories, engaged in rich discussions, and left with valuable insights about food rescue and its future.



OUR REGIONAL HUI TE IKA-A-MĀUI, NORTH ISLAND

sponsored by

foodstuffs NORTH ISLAND



This year, we held our AFRA Regional Hui at three locations across Te Ika-a-Māui: Whanganui, Muruwai Beach and Hastings. Our immense gratitude goes to Foodstuffs North Island for generously supporting these hui, which were each a fantastic opportunity for our members to come together, and share learnings and ideas.

A huge thank you to AFRA members who hosted these hui in their local regions: Whanganui Kai Hub, Fair Food and Nourished for Nil.

With the support of Foodstuffs North Island, our hosts ran hugely valuable hui, with engaging speakers, insightful workshops and beautiful kai. Thank you also to our members who brought their energy and passion for the sector, and helped in the strategy and planning of the future for AFRA.



OUR REGIONAL HUI TE WAIPOUNAMU, SOUTH ISLAND

sponsored by
Woolworths 

Our South Island Regional Hui was generously supported by Woolworths NZ and hosted by our member organisation Kairos Food Rescue.

It was great to connect with South Island members, learn about the incredible work taking place, and hear members' thoughts on AFRA's strategic direction.

A fantastic group of speakers led workshops on workplace wellbeing, being values-led, and balancing the variety of roles many members have in their communities.

A highlight of our time together was a visit to Christchurch International Airport Limited to hear about their food rescue partnership with Kairos and airport tenants to reduce food waste across their site.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 20 JUNE 2024

	Actual 2024 \$	Actual 2023 \$
Operating Revenue		
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	77,963	74,000
Revenue from providing goods or services	580,000	592,000
Total Operating Revenue	657,963	666,000
Operating Expenses		
Volunteer and employee related costs	492,437	438,009
Costs related to providing goods or services	192,194	190,857
Total Operating Expenses	684,631	628,866
Non-Operating Expenses		
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	1,862	1,725
Total Non-Operating Expenses	686,493	630,591
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	-28,529	35,409

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 20 JUNE 2024

	Actual 2024 \$	Actual 2023 \$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank accounts and cash	83,742	153,962
Debtors and prepayments	6,895	7,686
Total Current Assets	90,637	161,648
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	2,835	1,661
Total Non-Current Assets	2,835	1,661
Total Assets	93,472	163,309
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses	529	531
Employee costs payable	9,189	10,493
Unused donations and grants with conditions		40,000
Total Current Liabilities	9,718	51,024
Total Liabilities	9,718	51,024
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)	83,755	112,285
Accumulated Funds		
Opening Balance	112,285	76,875
Surplus for the year	-28,529	35,409
Total Accumulated Funds	83,755	112,285



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA



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