

Media Release

The Hon Luke Donnellan MP
Minister for Child Protection
Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers



Thursday, 8 October 2020

DELIVERING FOOD RELIEF FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Victorian Government is strengthening food relief services across the state ensuring healthy food reaches Victorians in need.

Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Luke Donnellan today launched the Government's new \$5 million *Community Food Relief Fund* – supporting local community organisations supplying food to Victorians in need.

One-off grants of up to \$75,000 are available to assist community food relief organisations with a range of challenges due to increased demand.

Funding may be used to purchase infrastructure, such as refrigerated vans or updated IT and management software, develop innovative food relief delivery models, support COVID safe practices or to attract new volunteers to support the delivery of food programs.

The grants are open to all Victorian community food relief organisations, including those in partnership with local councils.

The \$5 million *Community Food Relief Fund* is part of the recently announced \$11.3 million investment to boost food relief activities for vulnerable Victorians.

The package builds on \$7.4 million already announced earlier this year to expand food relief operations and deliver more free and nutritious meals, which is creating 119 new food relief jobs.

For more information or to apply for one of the grants, visit dhhs.vic.gov.au/community-inclusion-and-food-relief-coronavirus-covid-19.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Luke Donnellan

"Every Victorian deserves access to fresh and healthy food – which is why we're boosting resources for community-based food relief services."

"We're making sure the food relief system supports Victorians when and where they need it, in a COVID safe way."

"This investment will make a real difference for Victorians struggling to put food on the table."