



FOOD BANK IMPACT REPORT

Annual report 2025



SALT FOOD BANK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our food bank which reaches those in need in our community, grew dramatically over the past 5 years from the humble food bank we started with in 2020.

However due to the decreased availability of funding in this space, and the cost of living crisis impacting revenue from our 3 social enterprise op shops, unfortunately we have had to scale down our food bank. Our new model, which began in August 2025, is a partnership with Northgate Baptist Church. The food bank is now entirely staffed by volunteers, and resourced with donated goods and recovery food.

Collaboration with other local food banks enables us to share resources and ensure we are not supplying the same households. This continues to be an important part of how we run our food bank to ensure equitable distribution of resources.

We are very grateful to the Ministry of Social Development, Here for NZ, Gilmours North Shore,

KiwiHarvest, Fresh Freight, Chevalier Wholesale Produce, NZ Food Network, The Good Grain Wholefoods, Love Soup and other generous donors for continuing to support this programme.

Local businesses and schools also contribute to helping us run the food bank by donating their time and running food donation campaigns to collect non-perishable items.

We are also very grateful for the many volunteers who give so much of their time to this cause. Without them and the various agencies we work with, there would be no longer be a foodbank.

The key challenge for us continues to be to ensure the long-term sustainability of the programme due to the decreased availability of funding.

We are still inundated by the needs we are seeing in the community, especially with increased costs of living and a marked decrease in available funding across the board.

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HOW IT WORKS

Our new food bank model is a partnership between Salt and Northgate Baptist Church. Northgate generously allowed use of the food bank venue from Sep-Dec 2025 at no cost, which means we have been able to keep the food bank open. The food bank is now entirely staffed by volunteers, sourced through Salt and Northgate communities.

On a Monday weekly, Salt and Northgate volunteers make food parcels with donated fresh fruit and vegetables (Fresh Produce Boxes), as well as fresh bread, meat & dairy products (if available). A fresh produce box contains approximately 15 equivalent meals for a family of 3-4 people (previously 21 meals).

A percentage of this is food recovery items from Kiwi Harvest Food Recovery and local food recovery. We are also very grateful to a local fresh freight company who have partnered with a produce supplier to deliver us a generous donation of fresh produce (e.g. potatoes, carrots, broccoli, onions, apples) weekly.

We also receive donations of non-perishable food and have created a 'shop' where people are able to select the items they need based on the number of people in their household. We estimate that the average number of meals from a 'Shop' is 15 meals for a household of 3-4 people (previously 48 meals).

Unfortunately as there has been no financial assistance since July we are no longer able to guarantee that our food parcels meet the AFPM standard.

Due to the significant increase in demand, and significant reduction in funding, we have had to cap our numbers and recipients are only able to receive a parcel each fortnight – this means we are making 30-40 parcels each week and supporting 60-80 families a fortnight.

Referrals for food parcels are received via our online form from individuals, or through referrals from other agencies and community organisations including other Food banks, Te Whata Ora, Plunket, Oranga Tamariki, NZ Police, Clean and Sober, Women's Wellness Refuge, Steps Forward, MSD, WINZ, Ember, HBC Grandparents, CYC Trust, WDHB Harbour Hospice, schools, social workers, youth workers, and mental health workers.

Salt has been very blessed to engage with a large team of volunteers (75-80 people) who fulfil a variety of roles. Some of the previously paid staff who are at retirement age have graciously continued their roles unpaid. Volunteers help with all aspects of the foodbank from management, following up food parcel requests, liaising with recipients, inputting & analysing data, through to the unloading of food delivery trucks, packing food and produce boxes, supporting recipients at collection, and providing follow up care and support.



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OUTCOMES

What outcomes are we seeking?

The key outcomes we are attempting to achieve for our clients are:

- increased food security
- increased dignity through choice
- increased Hauora (physical, mental/emotional, social, spiritual wellbeing)
- reduced stress
- decreased food waste
- increased engagement in community
- increased connection to relevant services (education, employment, budgeting, social work, parenting courses)
- more equitable distribution of resources
- increased attendance at school

Have we achieved these outcomes?

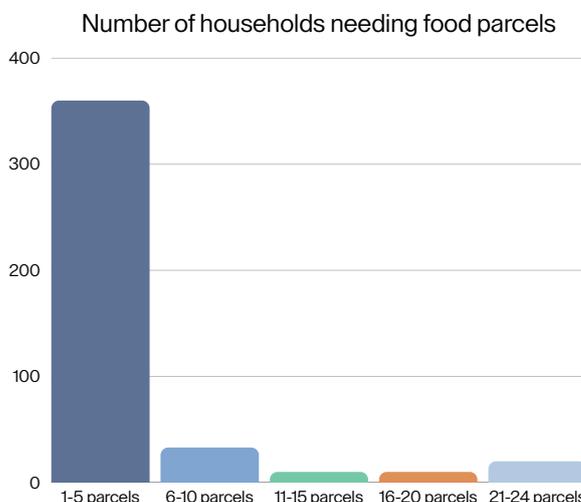
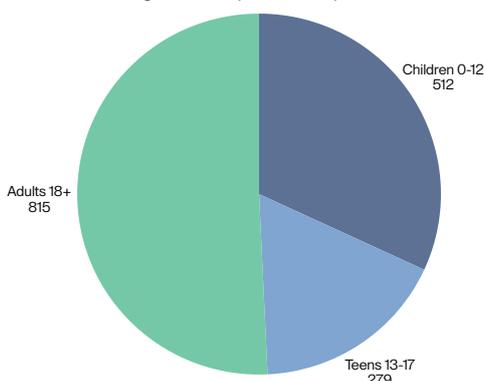
Analysis of our 2025 recipients shows that 75% of households are receiving between 1-3 boxes in the 12 month period and only need temporary support to get through a difficult time.

Those needing ongoing support have complex situations, many that are not going to change quickly i.e. Chronic illness or injury, terminally ill, refugees/immigrants, mental health & addiction, grandparents raising grandchildren, pensioners, and solo parents with young children.

In 2025 we have supported 433 households with 1693 parcels. This has comprised 815 adults (51% of recipients), 279 teenagers aged 13-17years (17% of recipients), and 512 children aged 0-12 years (32% of recipients).

We believe we are achieving our outcomes, albeit it is hard to quantify this. The feedback we are receiving from clients would suggest the food bank is definitely addressing some of our outcomes listed, including helping the young people engage in education and improving their wellbeing.

Age of food parcel recipients



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CLIENT FEEDBACK

Just a few of our feedback messages from clients recently -

- Thank you so much we really appreciate you going to all this trouble for the grandkids.
- Thanks for all the help and support you have given me thru some very difficult and challenging times.
- Thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart, for helping my Aunt with some Christmas food and the lovely man who prayed for her and the ladies who gave her a cup of tea.
- Thank you for supporting me it has been very difficult losing mum and feeling not knowing what to do. I come here and everyone is so kind and caring. I feel loved., not judged. It is a little sanctuary.
- Thankyou so so much it is going to be a lovely Christmas and the children's faces lit up when I came home with amazing food parcels. This has taken the pressure off, and you do not know how much this really means to me and my family to be able to see the children's faces when they open their gifts on Christmas morning, which is such a blessing.
- Thank you, your help and support has meant the world to us, and I really don't know how we would have managed without you guys. It has been a tough few years but the love and support, prayer, food and people has been amazing. The children love it here. Thanks to all who have touched our lives.
- Thank you for supporting my daughter. She is very grateful and says it is such a lovely place to come with no judgement, just love and support. Your help has made such a difference in our lives.
- Had unexpected bills this week and was blown away with the amount of food you gave out. This has saved me and I will make it last as long as I can thank you so much and God Bless you guys,
- Thank you, I always know when I am really struggling, I can come to you for help, which is always there. Sometimes I have had problems and know where to turn but you and your team always help me with options, so I am so grateful.
- Thank you, appreciate you and the Salt family for supporting me and my family whilst I am in hospital.
- I won't be needing a food parcel from now on as I have got a job. I just wanted to let you know that if it hadn't been for your support and love I probably wouldn't be here this year. Thank you so much.



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STATISTICS

Funding we have received

In 12 months to 31 December 2025, SALT has received funding toward the food bank as follows:

Funding we have received

	2025 Q1	2025 Q2	2025 Q3	2025 Q4	Total
MSD - Community Food Provider fund	15,000		15,000	-	30,000
Foodstuffs (Here for NZ) grant	6,894	1,802	-	-	8,696
Donations and other fundraising	2,400	5,903	1,688	670	10,660
Totals	24,293	7,705	16,688	670	49,356

How we have spent the money

	2025 Q1	2025 Q2	2025 Q3	2025 Q4	Total
Food and hygiene items	10,189	10,130	-	-	20,318
Staff costs	11,834	12,358	7,161	-	31,353
Transport costs	285	41	-	-	326
Facility costs	23,035	22,799	10,612	-	56,446
Other expenses	674	981	388	356	2,399
Totals	46,017	46,309	18,161	356	110,842

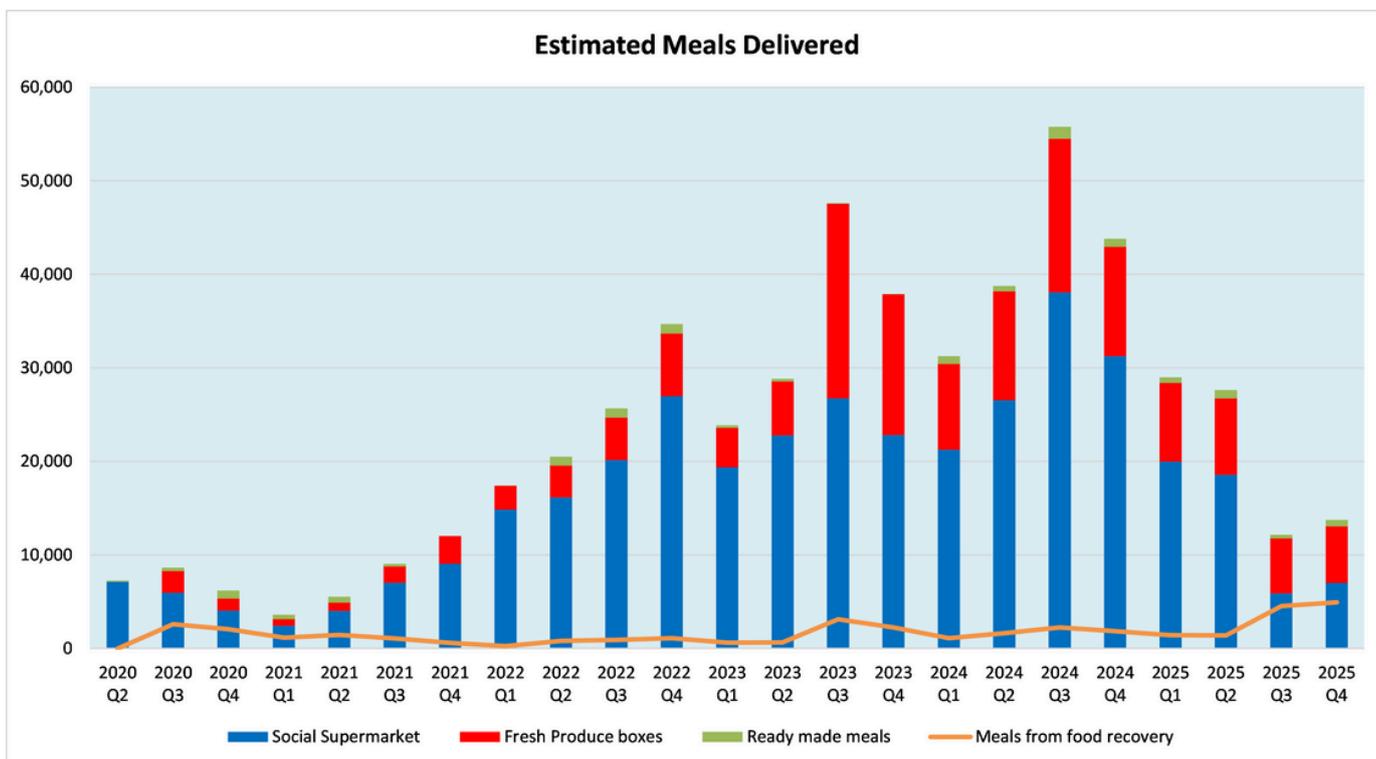
- We have not previously reported on facility costs (Silverdale Rugby club, the base location for the foodbank) as these costs were not previously specifically tagged for the foodbank in the Salt accounts. However, these costs were real costs relating to the foodbank and are no longer being incurred now that the foodbank has been restructured
- It should also be noted that the above staff costs only include those staff who were employed directly in the food bank from Jan-Aug 2025. We have other management staff who have also been heavily involved given the size and complexity of the current operations. As of Q4 all positions are now 100% volunteer

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STATISTICS

Meal statistics chart

	2025 Q1	2025 Q2	2025 Q3	2025 Q4	Total
Non-perishable food - supermarket					
Food parcels produced	416	407	392	328	1,543
Food parcels distributed	416	387	392	435	1,630
Equivalent meals	19,968	18,576	5,880	6,999	51,423
Fresh Produce Boxes					
Fresh produce boxes distributed	401	389	392	405	1,587
Equivalent meals	8,421	8,169	5,880	6,075	28,545
Equivalent meals from food recovery	1,106	1,075	4,116	4,253	10,550
Ready-made meals					
Frozen meals distributed	609	895	410	672	2,586
Equivalent meals	609	895	410	672	2,586
Totals					
Total equivalent meals distributed	28,998	27,640	12,170	13,746	82,554
Meals from food recovery	1,433	1,402	4,525	4,925	12,284
Food recovery %	4.9%	5.1%	37.2%	35.8%	14.9%





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HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights during 2025 include:

- Improved efficiency of systems and communication to improve afternoon coordination of recipients
- Past recipient visiting with her family and making significant donation of cleaning products and items
- Clothing donations from Foraging Fields
- New donor offering regular funds for products and items outside of budget i.e. tomato sauce & butter (April-August)
- Feedback from Kore Hiakai that our data is helpful for having conversations with other organisations and sharing our collective story with government
- Northgate Baptist and Orewa Baptist have committed to supporting the food bank with non-perishable items
- Westlake Boys, Kingsway, Silverdale Primary, Orewa Primary & Wainui School doing can drives to donate more non-perishable items
- Christmas gifts and non-perishable donations from Ray White Orewa and Northern Arena.
- Consistent volunteer support including youth & young adults - multiple volunteers knowing tasks that need to be done throughout the day
- Fresh Freight - Chad Mexted (Northgate) continuing to supply some of the fresh produce we need to make boxes – apples, bananas, potatoes, onions, carrots
- New bulk supplier, The Good Grain Wholefoods, giving donations of rice, flour and sugar from October 2025.



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CHALLENGES

Some of the challenges we've faced in 2025 include:

- Food recovery is bringing in less fruit and vegetables
- News of large food banks closing all over NZ, showing ongoing pressure and lack of funding
- Awareness that Love Soup numbers are growing, which seems to be linked to our service and Salvation Army service changing due to budget constraints
- Feedback from Kore Hiakai that all foodbanks facing ongoing pressure and lack of funding
- Shortfalls from funding applications being declined or offered less than we have applied for adding to the financial pressure
- Staff, recipient and volunteer uncertainty and concerns for future
- Significant reduction in the non perishable items we can offer – we are hoping as the community comes on board with donations that this will improve
- Reduced numbers means that we have been closing the form on Wednesday or Thursday (instead of Friday) and putting people on a waitlist
- The cost associated with services to communicate with clients (e-texting)
- Julie (foodbank coordinator) was away for 4 weeks requiring a past staff member to reluctantly return as a volunteer to process food parcel requests – there is a need to train at least one new volunteer to create redundancy and flexibility for all.



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SUSTAINABILITY

Due to the economic climate and limited financial support, a fully volunteer & donations based model is the only tenable solution for the food bank currently.

As long as we are able, we will continue to build our team of volunteers and collaborate with other national and local organisations to provide food parcels to those in need in our community.

Our ongoing weekly collaboration and quarterly meetings with our other local foodbanks are essential for the equitable distribution of food on the Hibiscus Coast and surrounding rural areas.

We will continue to collect high level data and record feedback from recipients, however, we are unable to continue to complete more comprehensive surveys and monthly reporting without the additional funds needed to cover this.

For further information, please contact:

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Chairman

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The Future:

The very generous donation of our food bank coordinator's time and energy is deeply appreciated. For the sustainability of this initiative we hope to find at least one or two others who are able to share the load of this responsibility to ensure the continuation of this service.

To meet AFPM, we need more consistent donations of meat, eggs, dairy, cereal, pasta, pasta/simmer sauces, canned foods, and lunch box items (muesli bars, crackers, biscuits etc), or the financial assistance to enable the purchasing of these items.

The future of our food bank is subject to the continued financial contributions from the Ministry of Social Development and Here for NZ, and the donations of food from Gilmours North Shore, KiwiHarvest, Fresh Freight, Chevalier Wholesale Produce, NZ Food Network, The Good Grain Wholefoods, Love Soup, and other donors.