

# CAMPASPE EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF SERVICES DURING COVID-19

## Mobilising rapid responses to inform community

### Background

The Campaspe Food Security Working Group was established in 2016 to address food security issues for vulnerable people in Campaspe through a partnership approach. The working group included representation from Campaspe health care services, Campaspe Shire Council, community service providers, local Aboriginal corporation, neighbourhood houses, church organisations and local community gardens.

The group met bimonthly over an 18 month period achieving the following:

- Forming and strengthening relationships among a diverse group of service providers
- Identifying emergency food and other support across the service system in Campaspe
- Development and distribution of two emergency food services brochures for Echuca and Rochester areas and for Kyabram and districts. Four thousand brochures were distributed in 2017, with the brochures being updated by the Campaspe PCP again in 2019
- Guest speakers at working group meetings to assist members with capacity building
- Development of a “Cheap Eats” cook book, using basic ingredients and simple household items
- Five “pots and pans” drives within health services to collect kitchen utensils for distribution by the emergency food relief providers.

The working group transformed into a network after completion of their activities and has maintained connections with the support of Campaspe PCP and Campaspe Shire Council.

### PARTNERS

Kyabram Community & Learning Centre  
Echuca Neighbourhood House  
Rochester Community House  
Girgarre Community Cottage  
Njernda Aboriginal Corporation  
Rushworth Community House  
Tongala Community Activities Centre  
Salvation Army - Echuca, Kyabram and Rochester  
St Vincent's De Paul  
Crossenvale Community House  
STEPS, hands on health Echuca  
Moama Uniting Church  
Campaspe Shire Council  
Campaspe PCP



Working Together for Healthy Communities

# Existing & trusted partnerships

## COVID-19 Response

As COVID-19 began to impact our local community, the Campaspe PCP responded to a local government request for up to date information about the local emergency food services. The PCP rapidly made contact with all local providers who promptly provided information about service changes and in many cases service closures.

A new resource, "[Campaspe Emergency Food Relief Services during COVID-19](#)" was developed to reflect these changes. This resource and the Cheap Eats cookbook was distributed to the local community through social and print media, to all local health and community services, and to the broader emergency services network in Campaspe. Three weeks after development the resource was reviewed and minor changes made to reflect the current situation.

The resource was also placed on the Campaspe PCP website and was disseminated weekly through the [Campaspe PCP COVID-19 Newsletter](#).

## How was the resource beneficial for local community members?

Local organisations have found the brochure useful. Some have used it to promote their programs on social media, others who have closed during COVID-19 have displayed it on their doors to advise where people can go for help. It has been widely distributed through the local service system in staff newsletters, community newsletters and in the local print media.

*"Resources like this make it easy to share information, it comes from a credible source, and it stops us having to reinvent the wheel".*

Local organisation feedback



## Creating Connections for under serviced areas

Case study outcome

Campaspe Shire has a population of 37,200 people across 4,519 square kilometres. In the far west of the Shire is a small district called Gunbower, with a population of 550 people.

Food security had not previously been identified as an issue in Gunbower and no emergency food providers serviced the district. The Campaspe COVID-19 emergency food brochure was distributed to all of the Campaspe PCP networks in early April. Within hours of dissemination, a request had come from a police officer at Gunbower asking for help in the district as they were aware that COVID-19 had brought about financial hardship for people in the Gunbower area.

With the assistance of the Community Programs team at Campaspe Shire Council, this request sparked a relationship between the Echuca Neighbourhood House and the Gunbower Community Development Group and has resulted in a once a week food delivery from Echuca for families in need of emergency food relief to Gunbower (40km from Echuca). With the assistance of the Gunbower Lions Group they are providing packs for around 20 families.

