

STREETSMART

ACTION AGAINST HOMELESSNESS

Smart meals

Impact Report

August 2022





4 	Why Smart Meals
7 	Food and Job Security
8 	Key Impact Areas
11 	Employment and Training Outcomes
13 	Providing Emergency Food Relief
15 	Supporting Community Collaborations
18 	What's Next for SmartMeals
19 	Thank You / Contact

WHY SMART MEALS?



SmartMeals was launched as a dual impact initiative in response to the Covid-19 crisis in March 2020.

Why SmartMeals?

SmartMeals was launched as a dual impact initiative in response to the Covid-19 crisis in March 2020. Food insecurity was rising rapidly as lock-downs caused widespread financial instability and left rough sleepers housed in accommodation without cooking facilities. It was also increasingly evident that many restaurants were out of business and unable to support their staff, some of whom were not entitled to government programs such as JobKeeper and JobSeeker. SmartMeals was launched as a way of pairing these two community cohorts, providing income and job security for the hospitality sector workers,

while responding rapidly to the increased need within vulnerable communities for food relief and assistance. In 2021, the program was relaunched with a focus upon partnering with food based social enterprises to ensure disadvantaged people had the opportunity to upskill and deliver ready-made meals to people experiencing food insecurity. This new chapter of SmartMeals enabled our Social Enterprise partners to continue to provide vital job training, readiness and pathway programs for vulnerable people in a difficult jobs market.



SmartMeals Tackles Food and Job Insecurity

In 2022, as rents and cost of living expenses have risen, more and more people struggle to put food on their table. Too many people are 'just hanging on' to their housing or have tipped over into homelessness. Food insecurity and hunger remain huge challenges across our communities, with our partner organisations experiencing unprecedented demand for support in some cases up 60% compared to pre-COVID. Not only is hunger an issue for people unexpectedly made unemployed through COVID-19, or previously experiencing poverty and homelessness, but now food insecurity is impacting people in work, struggling to pay their bills. Food is often the first thing to be cut back when budgets tighten.

Just as important as tackling hunger SmartMeals has continued to provide funding certainty to our Social Enterprise partners. As COVID and economic shocks impact trading conditions SmartMeals helps underpin trading and employment for these important small businesses and their vulnerable staff.



2021-2022 Key Impact Outcomes

Employment and training

SmartMeals funding has supported the training and employment of disadvantaged youth, refugees, long-term unemployed, and people with disabilities.

Emergency Food Relief

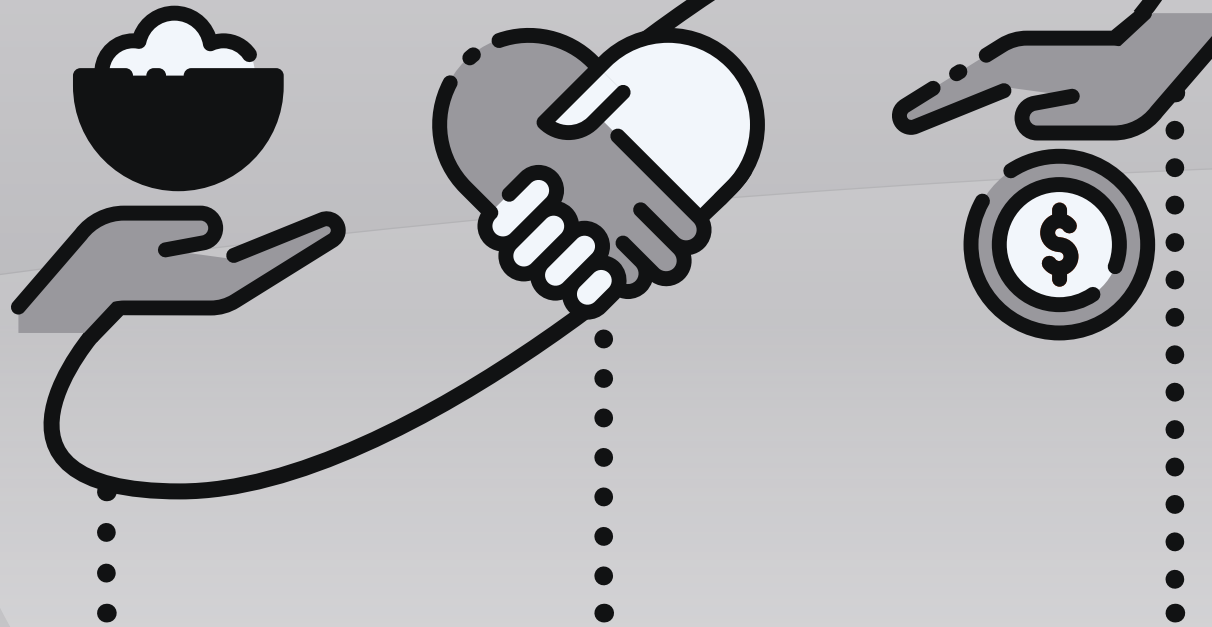
Twenty Six Social Enterprises have cooked nutritious and culturally appropriate meals for their local at-risk communities across 5 States, targeting rough-sleepers, domestic violence survivors, youth, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Community Collaborations

Nearly 70% of Social enterprises received 5 or more grants over a 10 month period. This consistent funding supported the building of new partnerships, facilitating the development of lasting networks of community support.

State	SmartMeals Social Enterprise Partner
VIC	ASRC Catering
VIC	Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre
VIC	Bendigo Food Share
VIC	Common Ground Project
NSW	Darcy Street Project
QLD	Deadly Espresso Cafe
QLD	Emerge Cafe
QLD	Espresso Train Cafe - Nundah community enterprises
SA	Food for Futures
VIC	For Change (formerly Society Melbourne)
VIC	Free to Feed
VIC	HomeGround Cafe - Tanti Park Social Enterprises Ltd
QLD	Hope St Cafe - MICAH Projects
NSW	House of Welcome
VIC	Kinfolk
QLD	Lagoon Creek Cafe
TAS	Loaves & Fishes
VIC	Moon Rabbit Cafe- Preston Neighbourhood House
VIC	Need Nutrition
NSW	Parliament on King
NSW	Plate it Forward
VIC	Social Engine Canteen
VIC	STREAT
VIC	The Little Social - Youth Projects
NSW	The Met Cafe - Southern Youth and Family Services
VIC	The Mission Caters

Since Inception..



290,586

**Emergency Meals
Provided**

150+

Charity Partners

\$1,493,083

Funds Distributed

2021-22 Social Enterprise Partnership Impact

179,586

Meals Made by
Social Enterprises

110

Trainees &
Employees
Supported

\$550,539

In Funding
Given to
Social Enterprises

26

Social
Enterprise
Partners

9,672

Hours of Training
& Employment
Support



EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING OUTCOMES

*"SmartMeals subsidises employment
for our workers with disabilities."*

Lagoon Creek Càfe, QLD

*"SmartMeals was a saviour for our
business!"*

For Change Co. VIC

*"Laneway Lunches supports community
members in need of opportunities for
social connection as well as ongoing
material and food relief support."*

Mahira Sobral, Moon Rabbit Café, VIC



"It has helped us employ one Community Member who had been long-term unemployed and lived in social housing, with 30 hours of employment per week.

SmartMeals also contributed to the employment of 2 Temporary Visa Holders who are ineligible for Government Benefits during this period of time for 30 hours per week."

Shaun Christie-David
Plate it Forward, NSW



"This program has meant that our workers have job security, knowing that they will not lose hours because of the impact of COVID.

SmartMeals subsidised 25 hours per week of paid employment at Lagoon Creek Cafe for people with intellectual disabilities who would have otherwise been unemployed."

Deb Griesheimer
Lagoon Creek Cafe, QLD.



"Our community partners are very keen for the quality and types of culturally appropriate meals provided by SmartMeals.

Each month we do SmartMeals, it helps provide 80-90 hours of work for our kitchen and delivery staff. It allows them to feel productive, useful and connected to the community"

Cassandra Godden
STREAT, VIC

PROVIDING EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF

"The meals help so much. I have just got a job but I have to travel a lot for it, am only just starting to earn money, and have debts to pay."

Kevin, receiving meals from the MET cafe, NSW

"I can't tell you how much it means to be able to rely on these meals each day."

SmartMeals Recipient

"More people are being pushed into homelessness and hunger as household budgets are savaged by unrelenting cost-of-living increases, particularly fuel, power, food, rent and mortgage repayments."

Paul, Loaves and Fishes, TAS



“Sophie* is a 34yo mother with two children under 5 years who suddenly left her family home to escape her violent partner.

Being able to feed herself and her children is critical to Sophie, and with very little money and fear of going out due to the risk of seeing her partner, she relies on support services like Food 4 Futures to deliver nutritious and easy to heat food for her and her children.”

Food For Futures
Jo Goodwin, SA



“Meals supplied to InTouch support households of women & children from multicultural backgrounds who are experiencing or moving on from family violence.

The complexity of their challenging circumstances is difficult to encapsulate in one sentence, but suffice to say the meals are greatly needed & appreciated by this community.”

Johanna Reilly
Kinfolk, VIC



“Many young people in casual work lose income immediately and those living rough become even more vulnerable during lock down periods.

The extra support from StreetSmart meant that we could immediately offer assistance with extra food including cooked meals. I don't think anyone can know the relief that this brings to some of these young people”

Narelle Clay
Southern Youth and Family Services, NSW

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS





"The SmartMeals program has allowed us to employ women seeking asylum in the community to prepare meals for food relief organisations."

We have collaborated with OneCare Geelong, Kardinia Early Learning Centre, and Feed Me Surf Coast. The meals have supported people experiencing homelessness, social isolation, unemployment, and those from CALD backgrounds."

Greta Carroll, Common Ground, VIC



"Our collaboration with the Red Cross Night Café started when the SmartMeals funding came in, before that we didn't have the capacity. We've been supplying vulnerable youth on the streets with 80 meals a week through that partnership and another 10 meals go to at-risk local school kids via Community Connections."

Another collaboration with Community Living Associations supports 25 adults with cognitive disabilities to socialise over a meal. The free SmartMeals give everybody a bit more time to interact without financial stress."

Kirsty Leigh, Espresso Train Café, QLD



"Parliament on King employ asylum seeker and refugee chefs to cook for people experiencing homelessness, and through SmartMeals, began a collaboration with Deadly Connections, to deliver emergency food relief to HotSpot LGA's and Indigenous communities."

Every Wednesday we deliver 80-100 hot meals for Deadly Connections to distribute in RedFern and Waterloo. There are outcomes of this program on multiple levels, outside of just the number of meals and number of employed people, there's beautiful community building also."

Ravi Prasad, Parliament on King, NSW

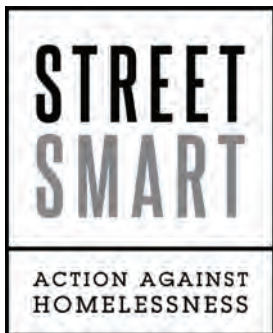
WHAT'S NEXT...



Let's Keep Delivering Meals and Training in 2022-23

The **SmartMeals program** was an **emergency response to the COVID-19** crisis helping meet the needs of people made unemployed or displaced. Through 2021 we re-established the program to support social enterprises to provide employment, job training and pathways. In 2022 we have seen our food security crisis deepen through the continued COVID pandemic and the rising cost of living. With donor support we have been able to run the program for **5 months** of 2022. However, current funding reserves have been expended and the program will close at the end of **September 2022**. We know food insecurity is still a major issue for millions of Australians, driven by inadequate welfare payments and a lack of affordable rental properties. **Our social enterprise partners have all expressed the importance of the SmartMeals program continuing.**

THANK YOU.



Contact

For further details of the SmartMeals program and the work of StreetSmart Australia please contact Geoff Hills, CEO, geoff@streetsmartaustralia.org

Thank You for Making SmartMeals Possible.

This initiative has been an 'all of community' response to help keep fellow Australians safe during a once in a generation pandemic. From the very beginning we have been fortunate to have funding partners who could see what we were doing and achieving, and backed us in. Funding has come from a wide range of Corporate donors, Trusts and Foundations, DineSmart restaurant owners, staff and customers and the general public. We are humbled by the support of our key SmartMeals funders and our sincere thanks go out to every donor, big or small, who have made sure people didn't go hungry and that social enterprises could survive the turmoil of the COVID-19 pandemic and remain training and employing vulnerable people.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our organisation is located and where we conduct our business, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present, and emerging. StreetSmart is committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.