



22 September 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 25 August 2025, in which you requested a report titled REP/25/5/394 – Meeting with Auckland Food Providers.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

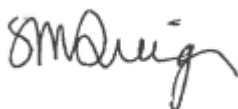
Please find attached the report you have requested. You will note that the information regarding some individuals is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Aide-mémoire



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

Visit/Engagement

Date: 20 May 2025 **Security Level:** IN CONFIDENCE

For: Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Social Development and Employment

File Reference: REP/25/5/394

Meeting with Auckland Food Providers

Visit details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time: 29 May 2025, 11.00am-12.00pm. • Location: St Vincent de Paul Society Onehunga, 6A Henderson Place, Onehunga Auckland. • Parking: Arranged at the venue.
Key contacts	<p>Food Providers: Tric Malcolm, Executive Officer, Kore Hiakai Zero Hunger Collective, Mobile: s9(2)(a)</p> <p>MSD: Stace Farquhar, Private Secretary, Mobile: s9(2)(a)</p>
Expected attendees	<p>The meeting will include 51 participants from 24 Auckland food providers and partners. Key attendees include:</p> <p>Tric Malcolm, Executive Officer, Kore Hiakai Zero Hunger Collective</p> <p>Helen Robinson, CEO, Auckland City Mission</p> <p>Tania Rangiheuea, CEO, Manukau Urban Marae Authority</p> <p>Tony Kake, CEO, Papakura Marae</p> <p>Delphina Soti, GM, St Vincent de Paul Society</p> <p>Maliena Jones, The Village Community Services Trust</p> <p>Dave Letele, Founder, The BBM Program</p> <p>Ian Foster, CEO, South Auckland Christian Food Bank</p> <p>Gemma Donaldson, CEO, South Kaipara Good Food</p> <p>Sara Page, CEO, Kindness Collective</p> <p>Judy Speight, CEO, Accelerating Aotearoa</p> <p>Christina Tyson, Director of Community Ministries, The Salvation Army</p> <p>Brook Turner, Director of Partnerships, Visionwest</p> <p>Carol Tansey, CEO, PBC Foundation</p>

	<p>Michelle Blau, CEO, Fair Food</p> <p>Julie King, Founder, Love Soup Hibiscus Coast</p> <p>Iain Lees Galloway, CEO, Aotearoa Food Rescue Alliance (AFRA)</p>
Purpose of visit	<p>You accepted an invitation to meet with 24 Auckland-based community food providers. 17 of them wrote to you in March 2025 to request a meeting to discuss their concerns. This meeting is one of the Food Hui organised by Auckland City Mission (ACM) and Kore Hiakai, Zero Hunger Collective.</p>
Background on event	<p>Over the past months, community food providers and partners have been reaching out to you and MSD officials to discuss the increased demand for community food provision and their concerns about the unpredictability of future funding.</p> <p>In March 2025, a group of 17 Auckland providers and partners wrote to you to request a meeting and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns with the increasing level of food insecurity in New Zealand. • The necessity to have an ongoing predictable multi-year funding plan and strategy for long-term stability of community providers. • Opportunities to collaborate with you on designing an appropriate reporting framework to demonstrate the impact of MSD investment and assist the process. • Willingness to work alongside you to improve food security in New Zealand. <p>In March 2025, MSD advised you should attend a meeting once a decision has been made on future funding of Food Secure Communities (FSC).</p> <p>MSD (through the FSC Programme) is the primary funder of two national partners, AFRA and Kore Hiakai, that are amongst the 17 organisations attending. MSD contributes to funding for the rest of the organisations, according to the size and nature of the providers' operations.</p> <p>According to Kore Hiakai information, 36.5% of foodbank funding comes from MSD, 43% through public donations, 12.5% through philanthropy, 5% from other agencies, and 2.5% through corporate donations.</p>
Topics/ key points	<p>Food insecurity for some cohorts such as Pacific children has significantly increased over the past year¹. Cost-of-living</p>

¹ For example, from New Zealand Health Survey 2024, and the Annual Report on the Child and Youth Strategy (published April 2025).

continues to be a challenge for many families in New Zealand. Other cohorts most vulnerable to food insecurity are sole parents, disabled people, and older people.

The drivers of food insecurity include income inadequacy, unstable employment, high cost of food and housing costs, problem debt, and unexpected expenses such as return to school costs. Regional factors are limited ability to grow food and lack of access to affordable food outlets. Some of these factors are reflected in recent papers sent to your office, including Ka Mākona 2024 (income inadequacy in Aotearoa New Zealand) by Kore Hiakai, and Auckland City Mission's paper outlining policy recommendations focussed on debt and income support settings.

Since 2020, MSD has supported and sustained the capacity and capability of the community food distribution infrastructure through FSC investment. MSD is looking into the current value for investment, and what opportunities exist for a more enduring and holistic model. These findings will be captured in a report, due to your office by the end of June 2025.

**Key issues/
Talking
points**

The meeting request letter and the supporting documents indicate multiple goals for this meeting. Potential subjects you may encounter, and suggested back pocket points are outlined below:

Increasing level of food insecurity

(If funding decision is favourable): The Government has recognised the need for further investment while the cost-of-living remains high and has reprioritised \$15 million from Vote Social Development to fund FSC Programme for another year. The funding will maintain the food distribution infrastructure and will enable MSD to work with food providers and partners on more enduring solutions for food security.

The need for multi-year funding

Acknowledgement of the importance of funding predictability to maintain providers' operations. Any decisions on further investment would require a robust assessment of value for investment, while also understanding how food insecurity can be addressed at its roots. For example, one of the root causes of food insecurity can be income inadequacy and unemployment. I have taken steps to boost employment and transition more New Zealanders towards independence and access to opportunities.

The need for a Food Strategy

The drivers of food insecurity are wide-ranging, spanning across numerous areas and agencies. I am keen for officials to

explore the most efficient ways to deliver enduring outcomes in food security for New Zealanders. While a food strategy does have its merits, its efficiency in delivering the best outcomes across a range of areas needs careful consideration.

Interest in designing an appropriate reporting framework to demonstrate impact

I expect MSD officials, and providers and partners to work together to achieve better reporting and impact evaluation. MSD officials are working on a report that assesses the impact of FSC investment to date. Outcomes-focused investment and reporting are aligned with the Social Sector Commissioning approach and the Social Investment Approach.

The need to forgive innocent debt due to overpayments

MSD writes off a proportion of overpayments each year for a range of reasons, including where an error has occurred that clients didn't intentionally contribute to. MSD applies this process for all those who receive income support, either welfare benefits or pensions.

The need to review Accommodation Supplement Rates

The Government has commissioned further advice from officials on changes to the Accommodation Supplements (AS), including potentially updating AS Areas.

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