

The Food Bank Industry in Australia

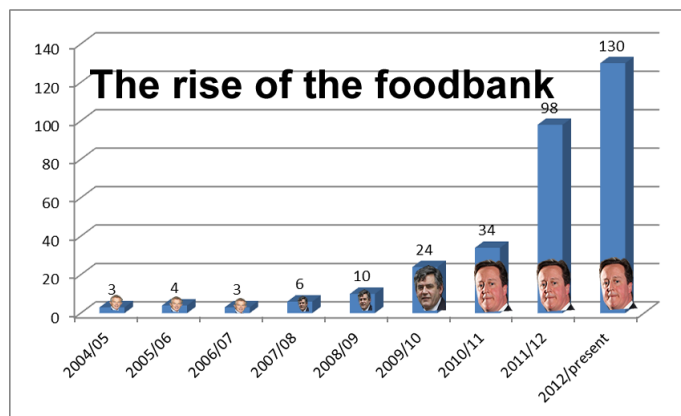
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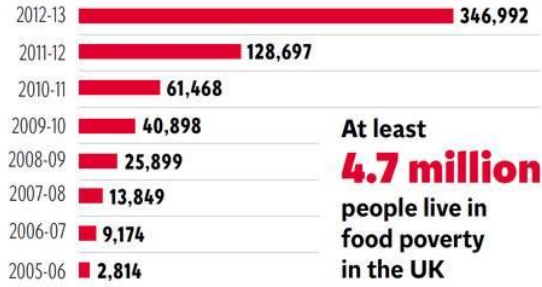
From emergency to industry

- 1992 – First food bank, NSW
- 1993 – 2nd food bank, Vic
- 1996 – Foodbank Australia – overarching body
- 2010 – Tasmanian food bank opens
- 2014 – Now national- capital cities + distribution networks/warehousing

UK Food bank expansion



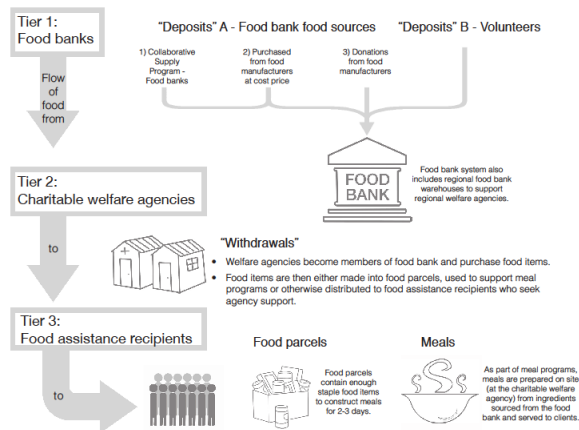
NUMBER OF PEOPLE GIVEN EMERGENCY FOOD FROM TRUSSELL TRUST FOODBANKS



At least 4.7 million people live in food poverty in the UK



How food banks work



From 'emergency' to 'industry'

- “pantry of the welfare sector”
- 2500 member agencies
- 2011/12 – 59 board directors, 1656 regional warehouses
- Receives ~ 24 Million kgs food donations

From 'emergency' to industry (con't)

- 2013 -Total revenue \$22.4 M
- 103 F/T staff
- 102 volunteers /day on average
- Provides 58% of all food used by charitable welfare (2013)

Who benefits from foodbanking ?

1. Food manufacturers & retailers

- Reduced costs, storage, transport
- Dumping fees
- Tax deductibility of donations
- Brand strengthening, cause related marketing



Who benefits from foodbanking ?

2. Governments

3. Corporate bodies aligned with Foodbank

Foodbank Victoria supporters





So what's the problem?

1. Food banks as a marker of social policy failure
 - *“Food banks are the safety net of the safety net. It is only when Govt fails that Food banks have to step in”*
2. Construction of hunger as a matter for charity = Debate on hunger is silent

So what's the problem?

3. Neo-liberal urban governance (Warshawsky, 2010),

4. Disempowering assistance (Kent, 2005)

5. More food will solve the problem, or will it?

So what's the problem?

6. Food banks aren't able to meet demand

7. Shift in power relations



The future of food banks – bankrupt or catalysts for change?

- Continue operational data collection & dissemination
- Undertake more research



Including the voices of communities in food insecurity research: An empowerment-based agenda for food scholarship

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Abstract
The dehumanizing manner in which “hunger” people¹ are portrayed in public discourse and the dehumanizing way in which they are treated when they try to provision for themselves demand that scholars create courses of action to address the existing portrayal of those experiencing food insecurity. In this paper, we call for a program of research that uses participatory research methodologies to invite, recognize, and represent the voices of people experiencing food insecurity. We argue for an expanded program of food

scholarship that places the experiences, needs, and voices of people experiencing food insecurity in the foreground. Such a program is needed in order to better understand the lived reality of food insecurity, how interventions can be designed for communities as partners in research rather than objects of investigation, and how communities can mobilize themselves for broader environmental change.

Keywords
community-based participatory research, food insecurity, marginalization

Introduction
The past decade has seen a wealth of studies from a variety of disciplinary and methodological perspectives investigating the complex problem of food insecurity in the United States. While useful, this body of work has overlooked the voices of

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The future of food banks – bankrupt or catalysts for change?

- Policy development?
- Expand advocacy, leadership & mobilising alliances
- Rights based approaches



Summary

- FB expanded from emergency to national industry
- A range of players benefit, other than hungry
- FB dominant solution to food insecurity, deflect debate on structural causes
- FB industry fertile ground for research
- FB well placed to adopt advocacy & leadership

