

# Become a food security champion for refugees



We are looking for schools across Victoria to become food security champions for refugees. Food security is one of the biggest challenges facing people seeking asylum.

At the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre we run food banks in Footscray and Dandenong that feed more than 1,600 people each fortnight, most are families living with no income, right to work or health care.

All food donated by schools goes straight onto the shelves of our Foodbank and into families' pantries.

## **How can schools help?**

By adopting one Foodbank item that you collect on our behalf for 2023.

## **What is the commitment required of our school?**

We are flexible and understand schools have different capacities and competing commitments and demands.

You could collect your adopted Foodbank item as a once off event this year or as a quarterly, monthly or weekly commitment. You decide the frequency. We just need to know when to expect it so we can manage our food and toiletries reserves accordingly.

## **Is there a minimum of how much we need to collect for our adopted Foodbank item?**

No. Again that's up to you.

Whether you can collect 10, 100, 1,000 or 10,000 of your adopted item this year, it all helps and we are simply grateful for it as are the families we feed. We go through thousands of each item listed below due to the scale of need from refugee families so whatever you collect we can use.

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## What food and toiletries do you most need?

We are asking schools to adopt one of the top 25 Foodbank items that are listed below.

1. Breakfast items - oats, weetabix, cereal
2. Honey - 220g - 375g
3. Vegetable oil - 750ml to 1L
4. Olive oil - 750ml or 1L
5. Canned chickpeas 425 gms
6. Canned tomatoes 425 gms
7. Canned lentils 425gm
8. Canned white beans 425gm
9. Canned mixed beans 425gm
10. Canned corn 425g
11. Canned peas 425g
12. Canned carrots 425g
13. Canned mixed vegetables 425g
14. Dried lentils 1kg
15. Dried chickpeas 1kg
16. Dried beans 1kg
17. Peanut butter 425g
18. Jams 425g
19. Tahini 425g
20. Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
21. Toilet paper
22. Soap - bundle of 2
23. Laundry powder - 500g - 1kg
24. Laundry liquid - 500ml - 1L
25. Dishwashing detergent - 550ml - 1kg

## Can we collect more than one item from this list for the ASRC?

Yes you can. We have asked schools to commit to one item so we can get enough scale of that item to provide consistency in having it available to refugee families when they come to our foodbank. However, if you have the ability to collect more than one item that is great, just let us know.

**How does our school get the food to the ASRC?**

We do not have the resources and capacity to pick up the food from any schools so we require schools to drop off the food themselves.

We have two drop off locations in Footscray and Dandenong and food can easily be dropped off Monday to Friday from 10am to 5pm. Please let us know when you expect to drop the food off, so we can ensure one of our team is available to meet you.

If you are a regional or rural Victorian school that cannot get the food to us but want to be a food security champion, we can put calls out on our social media platforms to see if there is anyone in your region who can deliver it on your behalf, but we cannot promise we will be able to find anyone.

**How else can our students get involved in learning more about the plight of refugees?**

When you drop off your food collection you can bring your students along to see first hand where the food is going. We can provide a short tour of our charity and you can hear from a speaker about the work we do and learn more about the plight of refugees.

Furthermore, we are happy to discuss with schools other ways to engage your students if you are keen to do even more as part of their community engagement.

**Who do we contact with further questions or to let us know you want to become a Food Security Champion for refugees?**

If you have any further questions, or would like to register your school to become a food security champion, please email [donatefood@asrc.org.au](mailto:donatefood@asrc.org.au), or give our team a call on 1300 692 772. Alternatively, you can register your school food drive through [this form on our website](#)