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Upload through portal: [Alternative Commonwealth Capabilities for Crisis Response Discussion Paper form \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au)

12 September 2023

To whom it may concern:

RE: Alternative Commonwealth Capabilities for Crisis Response – FareShare Submission

FareShare is a non-profit organisation working in the food relief sector. We operate Australia’s largest charity kitchens in Brisbane and Melbourne, providing over 2.5 million ready-to-eat frozen meals free to people who are food insecure. We service Queensland, Victoria and Northern NSW, and reach remote First Nations communities such as Mornington Island and Doomadgee.

FareShare has a history of providing free meal support in natural disasters, most recently to flooding in Shepparton in 2023 and Northern NSW in 2022. FareShare provided 100,000 meals to Northern NSW following the Lismore flooding event in February, all the way through to July. Community recovery is slow and we still support some remote First Nations communities in partnership with local agencies, where residents continue to be camping or in temporary accommodation.

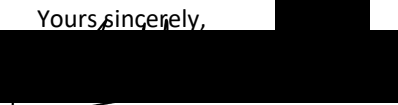
Food relief in natural disasters is inconsistent and isn’t set up to deal with the lengthy impacts of disasters on vulnerable people in our communities. Response is varied, and products provided are not always suitable or needed. Food relief also must be sensitive to impacts on the local economy, supply chains and production of waste.

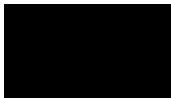
FareShare is now developing a range of shelf-stable meals to provide into disaster response. These include freeze-dry and retort meals, that are nutritionally balanced, attractive to eat and most importantly, can be provided free by on the ground services. Freeze-dry meals are also lightweight, suitable for deployment by air. FareShare meals are ideal for those with limited kitchen facilities, interrupted power, or just struggling to get back on their feet. This project has received funding from the Queensland State government and the Fight Food Waste CRC, but needs ongoing support for production costs, and specific ingredients to ensure nutritional balance.

FareShare works alongside Foodbank, Secondbite and local agencies to provide food relief into communities. We also have the support of major supermarkets, distributors and logistics partners to provide ingredients and support distribution. We would welcome the opportunity to be at the table to contribute to future strategy and planning for food relief not just in disaster response, but in recovery and resilience.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information or to discuss how we might partner together on food relief in disasters.

Yours sincerely,


Fiona Maxwell
Executive Director – Queensland


Kellie Watson
Director of Innovation

