

Transforming the Public Plate

How to use this report



Transforming the Public Plate is an Australian-first assessment of how food procurement works across publicly funded institutions by the newly-formed Good Food Purchasing Australia (GFPA) - and provides a clear pathway to action. The goal of this report is to inspire and equip decision-makers to embed sustainable food procurement within their everyday work, their strategies, their policies, their goals/targets and their budgets. The report offers a practical foundation for collaboration – helping policymakers, funders, and food system actors turn goodwill into coordinated, lasting change. GFPA invites readers to use the report as a springboard for collaboration and investment: to start conversations with potential partners, inform new strategies and funding programs, and strengthen existing implementation approaches.

Below is an outline of how this report can be used to help drive change in public food procurement policy and practice, and ultimately deliver healthier people, stronger communities, better environmental outcomes and value for taxpayers:

	What the report offers	How to use this report	Call to action
Federal Government Ministers, senior public servants, National Food Council members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australia's first national baseline for public food spending – \$2.13 billion annually• Evidence that smarter procurement can deliver better health, economic and environmental outcomes within existing budgets• Five clear pathways for action: leadership, investment, governance, accountability and coordination• International comparisons showing what comparable countries have already achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the expenditure mapping to identify which portfolios have the greatest leverage/opportunity (aged care, hospitals, long day care)• Use it as the basis to implement mandatory nutrition and sustainability standards/criteria for all publicly funded food• Use it as the basis to legislate targets for program areas that intersect with the food system• Work across government to achieve the goals/priorities of multiple strategies concurrently for example, agriculture, climate, regional and economic development and health/equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact GFPA to arrange a briefing on the public food procurement opportunity• Ensure public food procurement is central to the National Food Security Strategy (Feeding Australia) currently being developed• Join the GFPA Alliance by submitting an EOI form or join the GFPA Community of Practice• Follow GFPA on LinkedIn for regular updates

What the report offers

- State and territory-level expenditure data across public institutions and programs
- Jurisdiction maps identifying current procurement arrangements and contract renewal windows
- International examples and case studies of leadership

How to use this report

- Use state-specific data to build the case for procurement reform
- Use the jurisdiction maps to identify 12-24 month windows ahead of contract renewals, when criteria can be updated
- Use it as the basis to legislate targets for program areas that intersect with the food system
- Work across government to achieve the goals/priorities of multiple strategies concurrently for example, agriculture, climate, regional and economic development and health/equity

Call to action

- Contact **GFPA to arrange a briefing on the public food procurement opportunity**
- Explore opportunities for embedding health, sustainability and local sourcing criteria in the next contract or standing offer renewal
- **Join the GFPA Alliance** by submitting an EOI form or join the GFPA Community of Practice
- Follow GFPA on LinkedIn for regular updates

State and Territory Governments

Health, aged care, corrections, childcare and finance departments

Procurement Professionals

Contract managers, procurement officers and heads of procurement in public institutions

- An overview of how contracts, standing offers and panels work as vehicles for change, and when to act
- Practical criteria that can be embedded into tenders: nutrition standards, local sourcing, sustainability, Indigenous participation
- Examples of how peer institutions have shifted practice

- Use the procurement mechanisms section to identify where in the contract cycle you have the most leverage
- Use the international examples and local case studies to demonstrate feasibility and build internal confidence
- Use the jurisdiction maps to flag upcoming renewal windows and prepare for engagement 12–24 months ahead

- Contact **GFPA to arrange a briefing on the public food procurement opportunity**
- **Share** the report with leadership to start a conversation
- Identify opportunities for nutrition, local sourcing or sustainability criteria to be introduced or strengthened
- **Join the GFPA Alliance** by submitting an EOI form or join the GFPA Community of Practice.
- Follow GFPA on LinkedIn or Instagram for regular updates

What the report offers

How to use this report

Call to action

Public Institution Staff

Hospital and aged care managers, chefs, food service teams, childcare directors

- Evidence that more sustainable and nutritious institutional food is achievable
- A trustworthy/credible source of reliable data on the current state of public food procurement
- The business case for investing in better food: improved patient and resident outcomes, reduced waste, better local environment and economic outcomes, and stronger communities
- Practices to improve food system literacy

- Use the findings to make the internal case for change (including using the case studies as proof of concept)
- Use the procurement mechanisms section to understand how your institution's contracts work and how you can influence them
- Use the report to start conversations with your food service providers about sustainability and local sourcing

- **Share** the report with leadership to start a conversation or demonstrate how food procurement helps deliver or inform sustainability and social responsibility strategies
- **Join the GFPA Alliance** by submitting an EOI form or join the GFPA Community of Practice
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Those interested in improving public food

NGOs, community organisations, consumer groups, researchers

- Evidence that public institutions represent a significant opportunity to deliver better health outcomes in public institutions
- A clear overview of the barriers – and the opportunity and benefits of smarter procurement policy
- Public polling overwhelming public support for smarter public food purchasing that prioritises health, wellbeing, sustainability and locally produced food
- International examples showing how peer countries have achieved real, measurable change

- Use the findings and data to sharpen your advocacy – cite specific figures, examples and case studies
- Use the proposed pathways for action to identify potential partnerships and locations suitable for demonstration projects

- **Reference** the report in your submissions, briefings and public commentary
- **Share** the report with your networks and encourage others to use it
- **Contact GFPA** to explore what could be done in your area to get started and support advocacy
- **Join the GFPA Alliance** by submitting an EOI form or join the GFPA Community of Practice
- **Follow** GFPA on LinkedIn or Instagram for regular updates

	What the report offers	How to use this report	Call to action
<p>Australian farmers and food producers Farmers, growers, small and medium producers, regional food businesses, First Nations businesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that public institutions represent a significant, stable source of demand that small, medium, local and First Nations producers are largely excluded from • An explanation of why this is structural, not inevitable, and what policy changes could open up access • Examples of leadership and farmers already benefiting from local public food procurement relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the report to understand the scale and structure of the institutional market – and where the access barriers lie • Use the procurement mechanisms section to understand how supplier panels and standing offers work, and when new suppliers can be added 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the report to lobby your local MP to push for taxpayer funds to be spent with local farmers • Share the report with your networks and encourage others to use it • Contact GFPA to talk and explore what could be done in your area to get started and support advocacy • Follow GFPA on LinkedIn or Instagram for regular updates
<p>Others (health, nature, climate stakeholders, place-based and agrifood funders and investors)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that public procurement represents a national scalable opportunity to deliver significant transformation in the food system and achieve better outcomes for clients, farmers, resilient local food systems, nature and climate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the report to build the case to decision-makers for funding and investment in public food procurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the report with your networks and encourage others to use it • Contact GFPA to talk and explore how you/your organisation could support GFPA or a public procurement project in your area • Follow GFPA on LinkedIn or Instagram for regular updates

Ready to Act?

Contact Good Food Purchasing Australia to discuss how this report can support your work, organisation or region

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 www.goodfoodpurchasingaustralia.com.au