

‘Food security in Victoria: Research to Practice’
VLGA-VicHealth Forum

Good governance and municipal food food security planning

Victorian Local Governance Association

Beverley Wood and Darren Ray
18th May 2011



Acknowledgments

- **Victorian Department of Human Services (Housing & Community Building - Neighbourhood Renewal Program)**
- **Victorian Department of Health (Public Health)**

**We thank participating Local Governments
& their partners and residents for their valuable
collaboration and input
(Casey, Greater Geelong, Hume,
Port Philip, Shepparton & Wyndham)
and
The VicHealth Food for All Program**

Health and nutritional consequences of food insecurity (intermittent)

- Higher burden of disease (mental, physical)
- Higher morbidity and mortality rates
- Lower longevity in disadvantaged areas
- Lower longevity in indigenous people
- Nutritional-health implications of less food choice
- Psycho-social effects (food exclusion, food insecurity, social inequality and social exclusion)

- Higher crime rates

Total insecurity	Death	
Air	4-6	minutes
Water	24-36	hours
Food	4-6	weeks (Vit B-1 deficiency)

Whole of Government Whole of population mandate

**Responsibility to improve population health
is not isolated to distinct policy areas
or individual disciplines or vulnerable groups**

Towards a Victorian Food & Water Policy

**Such a policy should extend beyond the economics of
agribusiness and trade to support the physical and
mental health and well-being of
ALL of the Victorian population in the
short-medium and perpetual future**

Towards environments which support Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) for All

E4H paradigm overlap

- Human rights
- Air quality
- Water security
- Food security
- Health (mental, physical)
- Sustainability
- Economic viability
- Lifestyle
- Spirituality
- Disaster planning

Issues

- Preservation of arable land
- Local food supply planning
- Local water supply planning
- Integrated public transport
- Local housing
- Community safety
- Climate change mitigation-resilience
- Peak oil mitigation-resilience

Multiple issue inter-sectoral barriers can be addressed through integrated planning

VLGA Strategic Plan 2009-2013

Local area food security

The aim is to respond to the emerging issues & strengthen the ability of local governments to improve municipal food security

This includes leadership, good governance, and community connections in the context of planning and place linked to population health and well-being

Where did the Municipal Food Security Scanning Survey come from?

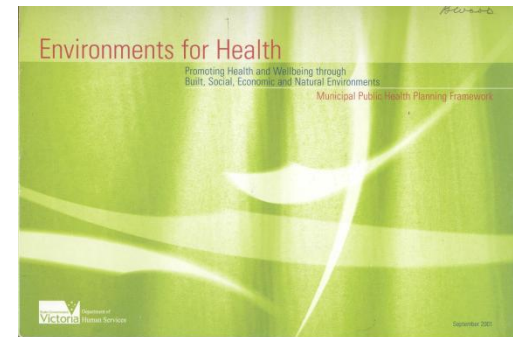
- **Two VicHealth Food Security Demonstration Projects (Maribyrnong and Yarra)**
- **The Sustainability Workshop outcomes were married with the E4H framework & developed into the Scanning Survey (Wood, Swinburn, Burns, 2003) - VERSION ONE**
- **An opportunity to trial the scanning survey was provided in the City of Port Phillip (Wood & Streker, 2004) - VERSION TWO**

Municipal food security scanning survey

Based on the Victorian 'Environments for Health
Municipal Public Health Planning Framework' *

Dimensions and opportunities

- Health
- Natural
- Built
- Economic
- Social and cultural



* <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/localgov/mphpf/index.htm>

Municipal food security dimensions and opportunities

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- What are the demographic factors? What are the indices of disadvantage?
- Are there any infants, children, youth and women of child bearing age who are at risk of food security problems?
- What are the food and nutrition risk factors for the population? Who are considered to be the most vulnerable?

	NATURAL	BUILT	ECONOMIC	SOCIO-CULTURAL
LOCAL FOOD CHAIN SYSTEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any food growers (primary producers)? • Are there any community gardens used for growing local food? • Are any programs encouraging edible planting in public areas? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any local food factories/processors/distributors? • Are there any local supermarket food outlets? • Are there any other local retail food outlets? • Are there any local retail food markets? • Are there any retail local dining and meal outlets? • Are there any local liquor outlets? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any characteristics of retail food outlets that are economic barriers to food access? • Does the cost of transport affect ability of residents to access food? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any emerging cultural groups who require access to culturally appropriate food? • Are there infant, child, youth, and aged support and activities for social and food connectedness?
Food produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are any programs supporting growing & sharing of food from home gardens? • Are local water restrictions in place? • What are the effects of water restrictions on growing food in these gardens? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are daily basic food needs (milk, bread, fruit) within reasonable distance for all residents? • What amenities are provided for bicycle transport? • Does public transport connect households to retail food supplies, dining and meal outlets? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any local retail food outlets that provide home food deliveries? • Are there any local retail food outlets that provide online food shopping with delivery? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any "breast feeding welcome here" locations? • Are there community programs and activities for social and food connectedness?
Food available for distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is any assistance available for water conservation and recycling? • How is food and water safety, food waste and packaging waste addressed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there essential (maintained) amenities on walking routes and in public spaces? • How many households have cars? • Are Baby Change Room facilities readily available? • Is there any community transport connecting households to food supplies, dining and meal outlets? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any community dining and meal outlets? • Do any community food outlets provide take-home or home food delivery? • Are there any community kitchens? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any barriers (natural, built, economic) to food access for cultural groups and at-risk groups? • Are there any barriers (natural, built, economic) to physical activity for cultural groups and at-risk groups?
Food available for purchase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any local environmental initiatives? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there minimum standards for food storage and preparation in community housing? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any emergency relief food outlets? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any identified community resilience factors that can be built on to improve food security?
Food purchased				
Food eaten				
Social benefit Health status outcomes				

VLGA has trialed the scanning survey in partnership with five Local Governments

- **The *Scanning Work Book* was developed for rapid assessment through participative research methods (primary & secondary sources)**
- **The *Scanning Work Book* was trialed with two Councils (Project ONE) to quickly identify Municipal Food Security dimensions and opportunities (across two geographical areas in each LGA)**
- **A Scanning Training Program was developed and trialed by three Councils (Project TWO)**

Council Scanning Survey outcomes

***Municipal Food Security Scanning* took place in five Cities (Casey, Greater Geelong, Hume, Shepparton & Wyndham), & their associated Neighbourhood Renewal sites (Doveton, Corio Norlane, Broadmeadows, Parkside Estate & Heathdale)**

- **Initial identification of systemic barriers to local water security and food security**
- **Beginning of Local Government and other systemic planning for intervention strategies to improve municipal food security for all**

Municipal Food Security

The dimensions & opportunities rapidly determined
(primary-secondary sources) & validated by
community consultation

Natural environment – arable land not
preserved, little local food grown

Built environment - centralised food supplies,
inadequate public transport, inadequate
amenities & infrastructure

Economic environment – low food variety,
limited competition, high food cost

Socio-cultural environment – at risk groups
(social exclusion, food exclusion)

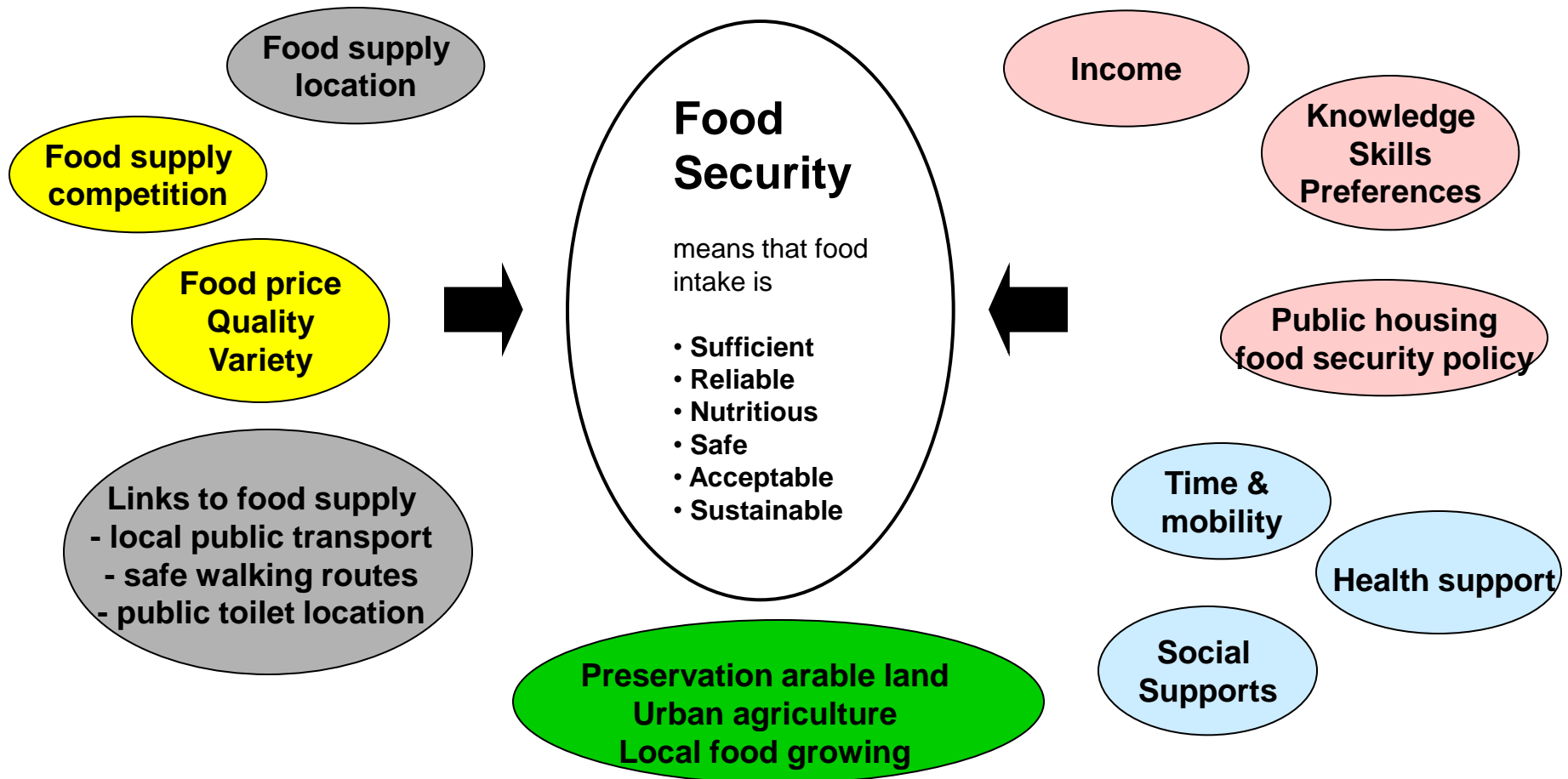
Health environment – at risk groups

Municipal (whole of population) food security

COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY

HOUSEHOLD, INDIVIDUAL FOOD SECURITY

E4H framework



Examples of opportunities for improving municipal food security, by population, cost, and duration

Duration	Long (5 years)	Moderate (1-2 years)	Short (< 1 year)
Target population	Whole of population	Whole of population- Vulnerable groups	Vulnerable groups
< \$5 000 per year	Media campaign-life education-food & life skills literacy	Investigate transport routes in relation to housing & food supply	Map location EFR outlets & disseminate
\$ 5 - 20 000 per year	Provide support for social inclusion & food inclusion	Review amenities- infrastructure to support food access	Map LGA for potential urban gardening sites
\$ 20 – 100 000 per year	Decentralisation of food supplies	Equitable provision of dedicated routes & amenities for local food access and recreation	Establish urban gardening hub to support local food growing etc.

Examples of settings for improving municipal food security at the local level

Setting	Duration	Target population
Community and residents	Perpetual	Whole of population
Local Government	Moderate-long term	Whole of population
Primary Health Care Community Agencies	Short-moderate term	Vulnerable households and individuals
Welfare Organisations	Short duration	Vulnerable households and individuals

What are the policy drivers?

State and Local Governments

Whole of population and commerce

Inter-sectoral policies and sustainable strategies

**Victorian 'Environments for Health' Municipal Public Health
Policy & Planning Framework (2001)**

Victorian Human Rights Act (2007)

Victorian Public Health & Wellbeing Act (2008)

Essential Partners for Governments

Primary Health Care & Community Agencies

Vulnerable households and individuals

Socio-cultural, health dimensions

Emergency Food Relief policies and strategies

Training Program (Two Half-Day Sessions)

Use of Scanning Survey resources:

- Work Book
- Resource Manual
- Training Manual



* City of Banyule, 2001

Environment
Economic
Emergency management

Access and inclusion (disability)
Local drug strategy

Community safety
Transport
Road Safety, etc.

Management of Council processes, outcomes, & strategies by inter-sectoral Working Group:

- Elected Councillor (Chair)
- Council Line Managers
- Council Staff
- Council Partners (eg. Primary Health Care)
- Community consultation - engagement

Local Government recommendations

- 1) *Municipal Food Security Scanning & Monitoring*
- 2) *Planning and intervention:
Food for All – 10 Ways to Act*
- 3) **Other initiatives being promulgated at the local level which target food security for ALL**

Towards a future Victorian Food & Water Policy

Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA)

Support and capacity building - target groups

Local Government Mayors, Councillors, Staff

Local citizens & community groups

Public servants

Community planning and policy making

**Engaging citizens in priority setting &
community planning**

Informing corporate policy plans and budgets

*Connecting Communities
Strengthening Democracy*

**Sustainable
Safety
Equitable**



**Clean air
Clean water
Local food supply**



**Housing
Transport
Spirituality
Life quality**

**Mental & physical
health
Longevity**



VLGA provision of resources for land use planning & community food security

‘ Integrating land use planning and community food security’

‘Economic significance of the food sector’

‘Land Use Planning training courses for councillors & community leaders’

VLGA focus on social & equity impacts of climate change

'Liveable and just toolkit'

In response to workshop outcomes & recommendations, this kit was developed to indicate key actions Councils can take to integrate social equity issues into efforts to mitigate & adapt to climate change

*'Food is good.' 'How do we work together
to get more food easily?'*

*Good governance & planning
for whole of population*

Protection of water & food security for all

*Environmental sustainability
Mental and physical wellbeing*