

WHITTLESEA FOODSHARE

Whittlesea Ministries Incorporated ABN 58818432472 (WMI) is a not for profit charity set up in 2004 with DGR status which is run by the christian churches of Whittlesea township. In 2009 after Black Saturday WMI gave out vouchers for food, pharmacy and hardware and was committed to giving emergency aid but when resources dried up it changed to providing free food from Secondbite under the name of Whittlesea Foodshare which is financially self supporting. Foodshare at present has an income of \$500 per month from two churches, occasional support from City of Whittlesea plus \$5000 annually from Whittlesea Bowls Club for power and petrol expenses. It accesses food from Foodbank of which it picks up about 1 tonne every three weeks from Yarraville. Foodshare also receives bread from Baker's Delight at Rivergum, 45-60 dozen eggs from Kinross Farm fortnightly and as of March 2024 we also receive irregular donations of cash and food from the public.

Foodshare operates from a 8m x 9m air-conditioned fully lined and insulated shed behind the Uniting Church on the corner of Forest and Walnut Streets in Whittlesea. Our volunteers pick up bread on Monday and Tuesday evenings from South Morang and we have a reasonable supply of fruit and vegetables, groceries, frozen foods, dairy products, feminine products and other toiletries. We have 3000 litres of refrigeration, 2500 litres of freezers and ample shelving and are open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11.00 am till 2.00 pm at the shed. We aim only to help supplement our clients' food supplies enabling those who are in need to use their financial resources for other items. We limit the number of items our clients can take but they choose the items they require from our shelves, fridges and freezers and we are able to give help to each of around 60 clients each week at no cost. At present we provide food to people mainly from Whittlesea township and the Mernda/Doreen area though we have people come from as far afield as Flowerdale and Kinglake to the north and east and South Morang and Epping, etc to the south.. In the 11^{1/2} years we have been operating we have listed over 2000 families on our books and last year we provided food for around 300 families and pensioners.



The Foodshare Shed



Overview inside the shed