



Friday, 10 May, 2024

To All of Our Valued Members of the FareShare Team

For those of you who don't know me, my name is David Harris and I have had the honour of being the Chair of the FareShare board for the last 20 years.

I remember when we were known as One Umbrella, working from a small, borrowed kitchen at the RACV club in 2001. I also remember moving to another kitchen at the Collingwood Football Club in Abbotsford when we worked together to produce something like 20,000 meals a year for people who could not afford to feed themselves.

Fast forward to 2008 when we finally established our own kitchen in Thompson Street, Abbotsford.

At the same time, we thought it was time for a new name, and FareShare was born.

By 2013, in what seemed like the blink of an eye, we moved to an even bigger kitchen in South Audley Street. During this same period, our Board decided to expand our FareShare formula to Brisbane, and in 2018, we established a wonderful facility there too.

Now in 2024, after a major renovation at our Abbotsford kitchen, we have the ability to cook an additional 500,000 meals every year. This journey has taken us from producing 20,000 meals annually, to over 3,000,000 meals each year - a magnificent achievement.

Over time, FareShare has vastly increased the volume of meals produced and we have never lost sight of an emphasis on cooking superior, high-quality, nutritious meals - to give, for free, to people doing it tough.

Sadly, despite continually increasing the number of meals we cook, the need for our meals from frontline agencies has always been greater than our capacity to cook them.

With this in mind, and after much consideration, our board has decided that the best way forward to achieve further increases in the number of meals we produce is **to merge with SecondBite**, our long-standing partner.

I'd like to share with you some of the many good reasons for this decision.

Combining organisations will strengthen FareShare financially and enable us to be a better employer.

SecondBite will be able to provide vital ingredients to the FareShare kitchens as well as continue to provide items for people to prepare their own meals.

FareShare meals can be distributed wider in the community utilizing the existing SecondBite network, and front-line agencies will have the convenience of a single delivery providing SecondBite food and FareShare meals.

The merger is strongly supported by both Coles and Woolworths, and our national reach will mean

we will have an even more compelling case, with a stronger voice, for receiving both State and Federal Government support.

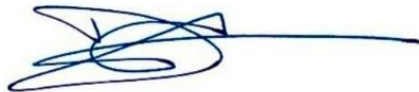
I strongly believe that FareShare and SecondBite will transform the food relief sector together. Our reach will be wider, and our ability to provide more nutritious meals to many more people will be vastly improved. Our board hopes that this merger will inspire even greater collaboration between all members of the food relief sector.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedicated efforts of the past and current FareShare staff, who have continually evolved and improved our operating model over the last twenty years. We now have the opportunity to continue doing what we do best – Rescue. Cook. Feed.

Because the motivation for this merger is driven by a desire to increase the number of meals we produce, I would like to confirm that, of course, it follows that there will be no redundancies or jobs losses.

FareShare will continue to do what it does best - cook meals - and our meals will still be branded FareShare.

I look forward to this exciting move and working with you all in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'David Harris', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Harris OAM
Board Chair FareShare