

## NEWS

‘We want to make sure all Australians have access to fresh produce’

# Food in bank for hungry families

**LAUREN McMAH**

**WETHERILL PARK:** WELFARE agencies showed they had all the ingredients for a hunger-free community at Foodbank in Wetherill Park last week.

Foodbank launched Waste Not Want Not, a program that will provide fresh fruit and vegetables to hungry families, not just in Fairfield, but throughout NSW and the ACT.

The program uses produce that would otherwise be wasted because it does not fit the narrow specifications for commercially-acceptable products.

Last Wednesday 1300 pumpkins, 9000kg of oranges and 10,000kg of potatoes grown in the Carrathool shire were delivered to Foodbank's Wetherill Park warehouse.

Foodbank CEO Gerry Anderson estimated that the program would feed 60,000 people each week.

“This project couldn't be starting at a better time,” he said.

“Over the past 12 months there has been a 33 per cent increase in the number of welfare agencies that rely on Foodbanks services in NSW alone.

“With fruit and vegetable prices

at a record high, we want to make sure all Australians have access to fresh food and we know our welfare agencies are not getting enough fruit and vegetable produce to meet demand.”

Welfare groups such as Fairfield's Christian Outreach Centre, St Vincent de Paul, Parramatta Mission and the Salvation Army have already started collecting the produce from the Wetherill Park warehouse.

## Couple collect for 60 families

**EDWARD and Marie Makoare are no strangers to assisting the less fortunate.**

**The husband-and-wife team, from the Christian Outreach Centre in Fairfield, collect fresh oranges, potatoes and pumpkins from Foodbank's Wetherill Park warehouse to distribute to needy families and young people.**

**“We deliver the food because it helps a lot of families in the area, about 50 or 60 families, and schoolchildren as well,” Mrs Makoare said.**



**Foodbank CEO Gerry Andersen and Uniting Church chaplain Julie Greig with some donated produce.**

Picture: NICK ANDREAN -PP452918