



# OPEN FOOD NETWORK AUSTRALIA

Powering fair, open food & farming networks to (re)connect people and regenerate the earth.

Build better food systems with us



**Open Food Network Australia works to transform the food system. We are a not-for-profit building the tools and resources needed to create a new food system that is fair, local, and transparent.**

Currently, food systems are some of the most destructive systems on the planet, damaging biodiversity, and contributing to climate change and inequity. Control of the food system is concentrated in the hands of a dwindling number of multinational corporations that place profit before planet.

**But food systems are also exciting and full of potential to be some of the most restorative and regenerative systems for people and the earth.**

At Open Food Network, we work to build better food systems because they can draw-down carbon and restore ecological function through regenerative farming. Better food systems have many diverse enterprises working to support these farmers, connecting them to customers and communities, while building regional economies and increasing equitable access to healthy food.

For farmers to farm regeneratively, they need customers to recognise value and pay a fair price for their food. Our open source online software platform makes that possible. Ours is the only software platform that enables collaborative food supply networks: farmers, food hubs, and co-ops can set their own prices and work together to provide transparent shopping experiences for eaters.

We need more food enterprises with social and ecological health as their main driver. We create resources and learning communities to make it easier to start and scale these food enterprises.

Farmers and food enterprises can achieve more when they connect and work together. We activate regional food systems - connecting people and building the locally-needed tools, resources and solutions.

For changes to happen faster and more effectively, we need a supportive policy and investment environment. So we change the landscape of possibilities through research, consultancies and communication.

We were founded in Australia, but now active in more than 20 countries around the world. Working together globally means we pool our resources to develop open solutions for better food systems everywhere. An open source ethos is core to what we do.

Our governance includes aspects of sociocracy, and we take inspiration from permaculture, paying attention to the organisation's resilience and sustainability.

Deliberation is emphasised, while agile and open-source software development concepts are incorporated to make sure things get done!

## Some key stats for 2020-21 FY

**21 Open Food Network instances around the world, up from 11 last year**

**32 employees in our Australian team, up from 6 last year**

**8 employees in our global team, up from 5 last year**

**\$972,061 revenue in Australia**



Oof! This looks good... So who produced this veg box?

Ah! Fields Farm. Wait, who are they? Why? How? Where?

Oh! I love them. How much do they get paid for this veg box?

And how much does the food hub get paid for this order?





Our Board has overseen the significant growth of the organisation since commencement in 2012 and we are now looking to mature and strengthen our governance to match our increasing complexity. We would like to transition the Board from a stewardship towards a stronger strategic and risk oversight role, as well as strengthening its role in raising the profile of the organisation and fund-raising.

The Board has oversight of both the global and the Australian organisation. It does not have oversight of each individual country's operations.

The board meets online every second month for two hours (currently 8-10am AEST on the second Thursday of the month). Board papers are provided in the week leading up to the meeting, board preparation should take 1-2 hours per meeting.

We are moving into a phase where we are asking for a larger commitment from our board, and are seeking board members who are willing to give around 6 hours each month in total, with tasks on sub-committees and projects increasing. Board positions are unpaid.

We have a high level of delegated authority to the organisation executive. We currently have two executive directors on the board, with one sitting as Chair. We are aiming to appoint a new Chair and Treasurer in the coming year.

Most of our current board were appointed in 2012. We are seeking to renew the board in coming years and introduce maximum board terms. We are currently seeking board members who will increase the range of experience, skills, and life experiences represented on our board. Our current board's strengths and gaps are represented in the chart below. Strengths are green, low coverage areas are orange, and gaps are red.

## How to apply

Please reach out to [people@openfoodnetwork.org.au](mailto:people@openfoodnetwork.org.au) for any further documentation or background that you might like to consider prior to applying to join the board. When you would like to apply, please visit [about.openfoodnetwork.org.au/our-board/](http://about.openfoodnetwork.org.au/our-board/)

### Skills

Accounts  
 Advocacy  
 Business Management  
 Communications  
 Finance

Governance  
 Government  
 Human Resource  
 Information Technology  
 Legal

Marketing  
 Non-profit Fundraising  
 Partnerships  
 Research & Evaluation  
 Risk Management

Sociocracy  
 Strategy  
 Volunteer Management

### Diversity of Board composition

Age  
 Gender  
 Indigenous

Non-English Speaking  
 Background  
 State

### Representative of communities served

Farmer  
 Food Hub  
 Government  
 Not-for-profit

Philanthropy  
 Private Enterprise  
 Research / Academia