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Remit: That RWNZ urge the NZ Ministry of Education to expand the Food component in the School's Health & Physical Education Curriculum for all year 7 and year 8 pupils, to allow a greater depth of study in food growing, handling, nutrition, budgeting and hands on-cooking.

Rationale: In the 1990's there was a change in Home Economics in primary schools. Now, not all schools have qualified teachers in Home Economics, so some schools have reduced time concentrating on the subject of food budgeting, meal planning and food preparation.

At present year 7 and 8 students get two 80 minutes periods per week for one term, of food and fibre technology, per year. Note this time is not solely for food technology.

Now after 25 years, teachers are noticing a second generation of some families who are unable to provide basic meals for their families. With many families struggling financially, this is causing much hardship.

Noticing some children are not taking lunches to school and are going hungry some Primary schools are opting for Community groups and Organisations to provide lunches and or breakfasts at school. Schools opt into this program as a whole; ie all pupils get the meals. The government is providing a lot of funding for this programme, but funding should also be provided for children to learn the value of good food values and how to cook on a budget.

Otherwise we will have families reliant on free meals provided by the schools going into the future. Then once they leave school, a continuing problem of the inability to plan a meal and cook it, continues

With obesity in children and adults an increasing problem in our New Zealand society and the associated health problems, like Diabetes, putting a huge strain on our already stretched health system, children could be better educated into the long term benefits of wholesome meals and learn how to plan and cook them on a budget, which in turn will better equip themselves for dealing with their future needs.

Proposer: Marg Verrall - President, Mid Canterbury RWNZ Provincial

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