

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 15 June 2021 12:30 GMT +10:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	HEALTHY FOOD STORIES = GOOD FOOD 2: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community store-related local food economy initiatives
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Monash University Department of Nutrition Dietetics and Food on behalf of the HEALTHY STORIES = GOOD FOOD working group
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/41008/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/41008/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Australia

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

# 1. PARTICIPATION

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

217

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

### HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

In planning, organising and implementing the HEALTHY STORIES = GOOD FOOD on-line event a number of strategies were employed to shape an event where i) community leaders, government/non-government policy-makers, service providers and academics could consider together solutions to food security built on evidence and with health and wellbeing outcomes important for communities; ii) there be robust, honest and respectful discussion on issues such as food affordability, a trained local nutrition workforce, minimising harm from unhealthy food and drinks with retail competition and viability of remote stores considered, and capacity building opportunities across the food system locally and nationally; and, iii) there be celebration and sharing of initiatives whilst acknowledging reflection of barriers to working in the challenging context of remote Australia. A key strategy was the establishment of a 32-member working group with eight Indigenous advisers in February 2020. This working group met monthly via Zoom, with the convenor in contact with members by phone and email between meetings to build relationships and support Indigenous Peoples to be empowered in lead roles in the story direction, story telling and sharing. The working group determined a set of guiding operation principles (such as, there be Australian-wide representation, priority be on involvement of Indigenous people in the working group, and, strong representation of Indigenous peoples in the sharing of stories and participation in the event and there be First Nations people's voice and community ownership in the inclusion of content). The working group also set criteria for the selection of community initiatives to be showcased. The 8 Indigenous advisors had final decision on significant event design decisions. Nicole Turner, a Kamilaroi woman, nutritionist and chair of Indigenous Allied Health Australia and NSW Rural Doctors Network, curated the event and built trust, showed respect of different perspectives, was inclusive of different stakeholders, and prioritising space for Indigenous Peoples voices.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Act with urgency: We recognised that sustained and meaningful action to build food secure communities can only be achieved with Indigenous Peoples at the centre of decision-making for their communities. Commit to the Summit: In registering this HEALTHY STORIES=GOOD FOOD on-line event as a food summit independent dialogue we contacted and sought support from the event working group and participating organisations. All were supportive of contributing to such a significant global forum. This action in itself brought the food summit to people's attention who previously may not have been aware of it. We will continue to share news of the food summit with these stakeholders to facilitate new connections and enable wider participation of stakeholders in remote communities of Australia in food system dialogues and the thinking of ways forward. Be respectful: The HEALTHY STORIES = GOOD FOOD on-line event strived to provide a public forum where the vision, concerns, effort and initiatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their leadership in promoting food-related policies and practices that strive to protect and improve health and wellbeing, enhance resilient livelihoods and communities, and promote good stewardship of natural resources, could be listened to, celebrated and showcased to inspire others. Recognise complexity: In this dialogue 10 government, 24 non-govt organisations, 14 Aboriginal organisations, 24 academic organisations, 4 retail organisations and civil society participated. The stories featured and the presenter and panellists were chosen to showcase the multiplicity of voices working across the food system in relation to remote stores. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: We sought to present multiple and diverse perspectives and experiences from a strength-based perspective to learn and build from local knowledge and insights. Complement and work of others: We presented key discussion points from this event to a food security summit hosted June 2021 by the Aboriginal Medical Services Association of the Northern Territory.

### DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

# 3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

## DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

This event was curated to share evidence on community initiatives aimed at improving the supply of healthy affordable food and highlight the innovative and emerging approaches to the challenges experienced by community stores in providing a healthy, quality and affordable food supply. The HEALTHY STORIES = GOOD FOOD event was curated via 4 on-line webinar events due to Covid-19 travel restrictions and risk. The on-line event culminated through consultation with many stakeholders and sharing of ideas. The artwork used for this event was created by the HEALTHY STORIES = GOOD FOOD Young artist winner Jarrod Stains of the Gamilaroi region, with his artwork "Food Dreaming". This artwork was selected by the HEALTHY STORIES = GOOD FOOD online series First Nations selection committee to best represent the event. Stories of community initiatives to showcase in the event were chosen Nationally that met our working group's guiding principles and criteria. The process of selecting stories to showcase included: 1. Identifying stories with working group members through community consultation 2. Review of the Australian Government parliamentary inquiry submissions for good stories impacting food supply for health outcomes that involved Stores only. 3. Checking alignment of identified stories with the working group's objectives 4. Screening the list of identified stories with working group members and our Indigenous selection committee (Stories included needed to be well-established, related to the store/takeaway, evidence of community involvement in development and implementation, and aimed to improve access to healthy/ affordable food 5. Relevant organisations were then contacted to double-check that stories met our brief. The consultation process then began with interview briefs co-designed with the filmmaker and involved organisation. First Nation story leaders were empowered to take leading roles in the story direction, telling, sharing of experience in a way they felt comfortable. The one-hour on-line event was structured as follows: - Acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the lands and paying of respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and Indigenous Peoples present - Acknowledgement of the balance Indigenous Peoples maintained for millennia between human and environmental/planetary health and the impact on this balance of colonisation - Acknowledgement of the continued consequences of colonisation and prevailing colonial power structures that impact on food security and people's access to healthy, affordable food - Showing of the four films on community initiatives on food supply, food delivery and local food economies - 10mins presentation by an expert in the field on remote store businesses and the food supply chain - An interview with an Indigenous Leader - QandA with panellists with questions from event participants - Showing of graphic illustration of the events key themes that emerged from the films, presentation and QandA - Close. The reaction to the event and its curation of the few participants who completed the short evaluation survey were extremely positive. One commented on how much they appreciated the celebration of "proactive health initiatives that will hopefully inspire other communities" and the illustrator who captured a summary of each discussion. Another praised the convenor and curator for the "highly grounded and knowledgeable contributors, inspiring films and case studies; the obvious, collective love, warmth and passion to tackle the hard issues in culturally safe, pragmatic and respectful ways to make meaningful and positive differences to individual and community wellbeing; and the wonderful mix of voices, doers and leaders who, with their communities, are just getting on with strengths, community based real action and solutions. So many wonderful examples of powerful, leadership, insight and grounded pathways for action really - for remote AND mainstream Australia." This same participant thought the mix of presentations, films and discussion worked well but thought more time for discussion and interaction would have been good too but understood the challenges of this online.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The HEALTHY STORIES = GOOD FOOD event had a focus on Action Track 1 with the recognition that the other action tracks relate to Action Track 1. This consideration of the relatedness of action tracks aligns with Indigenous knowledges of the interconnectedness of food system elements, people and the natural environment. This is reflected in the HEALTHY STORIES = GOOD FOOD artwork where Jarrod says, "In this artwork I have tried to represent HEALTH STORIES in a number of ways. In the middle of the painting is a group of people eating - we come together at meal time. The situation in which we eat is equally as important as the food we eat. Surrounding these are nuts, berries and witchetty grubs - important traditional food sources that our old people survived off for millennia, we need to take lessons from these (even if our food sources have changed) and watch what we are eating always. Stretching in four directions are the journeys we make for food, with a yam plant in each corner and bush food extended off of the branches. This represents our health journey, there are many paths we can take. The hands and spirals represent the relationships to people we have. These can also be important in our relationship with food, we need to surround ourselves with the right people and also encourage each other to eat well and nurture each other in times of health and illness alike."

In this dialogue, HEALTHY STORIES = GOOD FOOD 2, we explored the theme of food supply, food delivery and local food economies in relation to the community food retail businesses and levers of change for improved community health and wellbeing. We showcased innovative initiatives led by Indigenous communities and leaders, as such initiatives can be overlooked by governments and organisations, perpetuating a history of imposed and inappropriate policy-action that is neither effective nor sustainable for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Underpinning our event was the recognition of the human right of Indigenous Peoples to participate in and lead decisions impacting their lives, communities, culture and lands. The stories of community initiatives featured:

Maningrida, Northern Territory - Wildfoods Enterprises (commercialisation of local foods) and Tucker-Run (supplying groceries to homeland residents), Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation  
Ti Tree, Northern Territory - Remote community garden supplying the store, a community meals program and teaching children about Indigenous foods, Ti Tree Farm Garden Store  
Cape York Region, Northern Queensland - Local Indigenous run abattoir supplying local remote store, Seisia Meatworks

### ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

- Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- Data & Evidence
- Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

## MAIN FINDINGS

The natural environment has provided for the nourishment and health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples for millennia with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in turn managing and caring for the environment. The intergenerational knowledge of the natural foods, their growth, harvesting, preparation and conservation continues. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples since settler colonisation continue to fight for access to and ownership of their customary lands and waters, and for the protection of the environment. April Campbell, Assistant Teacher and Coordinator for language and culture, in the Ti Tree Farm Garden Store film, speaks of the importance of passing knowledge of the food and waters to the younger generations so they can continue to fight for access to these and for their protection. The critical importance of intergenerational transfer of Indigenous knowledges of food, water, country, kinship and culture for health and wellbeing and environmental sustainability was a recurring theme that emerged from the events films and the curator's interview with Associate Professor Elaine Maypilama. Dr Maypilama shared the story of her childhood of living with her parents 'on country' and her learning about the plants, animals, the environment and people's relationship with the environment. She emphasised the changes that have happened in the food system in her lifetime.

A further theme was how Stores and Takeaways enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to live on their country with their families. This was illustrated by the Tucker-Run film. Without the delivery of food to homelands, a large proportion of people's income is spent on travel for food and other goods. Not all people living on homelands in Australia however have this service available to them. Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation are a not-for-profit organisation and bear the cost of this service.

Local and Indigenous owned food enterprises (such as Bawinanga WildFoods enterprises, SEISIA meatworks and community farms/gardens) are important to secure a sustainable food future for remote communities and provide affordable options for communities. These enterprises also advance equitable livelihoods providing opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to participate in the local economy whilst enabling looking after of resources and passing on knowledge to younger generations. These enterprises however require adequate investment in infrastructure and workforce development and appropriate government policy to support this and provide flow on resource commitment as commented about by Floyd Constable in the dialogue. There has been a history of good-intent community garden/farm initiatives in remote communities of Australia that have failed due to inadequate foresight of capital and human resources needed for these ventures. There are stories of success however to learn from. Stores can help make locally sourced foods available to the community as shown by the Maningrida Wild Foods Café, and Ti Tree farm gardens and store. Community gardens can also familiarise children to different types of store plant foods as shown in the Ti Tree farm gardens film.

A further discussion point was how the quality and range of store food available to people living in remote communities has improved since the 1990s due to government investment in food delivery routes and store infrastructure. Provision of a quality food service to remote areas of Australia however is costly. Continued investment in infrastructure is needed to maintain a quality and affordable food supply in remote communities. This needs urgent consideration particularly in light of the vulnerability of the food supply to remote communities in Australia as demonstrated with Covid-19 and the future shocks to the food supply that are likely to occur with climate change. A further reason why local food production initiatives need serious consideration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders.

### ACTION TRACKS

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- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Finance                   | ✓ Policy                |
| ✓ Innovation              | Data & Evidence         |
| ✓ Human rights            | Governance              |
| Women & Youth Empowerment | Trade-offs              |
|                           | Environment and Climate |

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The following actions emerged from the discussion points for further discussion and consideration on who should take this action, ways progress could be assessed and challenges that might be anticipated with implementation.

1. Appropriate policy be in place to support intergenerational Indigenous food system knowledge transfer, for food and water secure communities and protected environments
2. There be continued policy investment in provision of groceries and home goods to homeland communities. Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation provide a model of how this can be done.
3. There be adequate investment in infrastructure and workforce development for Indigenous led local food procurement and production enterprises in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
4. There be continued investment in infrastructure improvement to enable remote store businesses to provide quality, affordable and a full range of grocery items to communities

These discussion topics focus on the role of government policy in committing resources to enable remote communities ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all, enable sustainable consumption patterns etc.

### ACTION TRACKS

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### KEYWORDS

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

### ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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### KEYWORDS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation                | <input type="checkbox"/> Data & Evidence         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human rights              | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade-offs              |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |



# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **HEALTHY STORIES\_2**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/HealthyStories\\_02\\_V2-scaled.jpg](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/HealthyStories_02_V2-scaled.jpg)

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Theme 2: Food supply, Delivery, Local Food Economies**  
<https://youtu.be/1a7YL40FMXw>
- **Maningrida Wild Foods**  
[https://youtu.be/7\\_t4ApVuoXE](https://youtu.be/7_t4ApVuoXE)
- **SEISIA Enterprises Meatworks**  
<https://youtu.be/Aq3d1baNIas>
- **Tucker Run**  
<https://youtu.be/3VCGGZxNSqk>
- **Ti Tree Community and Garden Store**  
<https://youtu.be/cxVB64rovyY>