

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 16 June 2021 12:30 GMT +10:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	HEALTHY STORiES = GOOD FOOD 3: Provision of Affordable Healthy Food in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Stores
<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/41015/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/41015/</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

202

## 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 12 government, 26 non-govt organisations, 13 Aboriginal organisations, 20 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 two films on community initiatives to improve store fruit and vegetable provision and food affordability - 2 x 10mins presentations by experts on food prices, food affordability and food security - 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 knowledgable 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 as shifting to sustainable consumption patterns, building resilience to shocks and stress etc are fundamental determinants of ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all. This consideration of all action tracks also 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 3, we explored the theme of food affordability and pricing for healthy food in relation to the community food retail businesses and levers of change for improved community health and wellbeing. Food insecurity is experienced by the majority of households in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Food prices are dramatically higher than in urban centres due to remoteness, high food retail business overheads, limited food retail business buying power; incomes are dramatically lower due to limited employment opportunities and/or western-imposed views on what constitutes work, lower education attainment. 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.

We featured community stories from:

Thursday Island, Northern Queensland - Fruit and Vegetables in focus (quality & pricing improvements), CEQ Thursday Island Store  
Laynhapuy Homelands, Northern Territory - Homeland stores: An essential services health model, Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation (LHAC)

### 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

Food affordability is a lead contributor to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. High cost of groceries and home goods coupled with low income and inadequate household storage and food preparation facilities result in purchase of non-perishable “filler” foods (energy dense-nutrient poor foods) or take-away food (that ends up being more expensive than a home prepared meal and/or of low nutritional value because of limited choice). These important social determinants of diet and health need urgent attention by policy-makers with community leaders to address inequities in food price experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The right to affordable food was presented as a human right in this dialogue event.

Investment in local food procurement and production will contribute to provision of a more secure, sustainable and affordable food supply in remote communities.

Using an essential service model, as shown by Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation with the Tucker Run (refer to HEALTHY STORIES dialogue 2) and Laynthapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation with Gan Gan store, are examples of two Aboriginal corporations, enabling access to grocery and home goods to Peoples living in homelands.

Store owners/operators have put a number of different policies in place to help make healthy food more affordable (e.g., off-setting freight costs on fruit and vegetables, better price deals with suppliers e.g. \$1 for 600ml bottled water, increasing mark-up on unhealthy food to fund decreased mark-up on healthy food). Small economies of scale, high overheads (e.g., infrastructure maintenance, utility costs) and freight costs however all contribute to the higher cost of food in remote communities compared to urban centres and so stores cannot fully address the price differential whilst running viable businesses. A better understanding of factors contributing to higher food costs in remote communities is needed to inform policy decisions on how best to support reduced food costs.

In addition timely information systems are needed for monitoring and feedback of food pricing and food affordability to policy-makers including retailers and community leaders to inform appropriate policy action.

### 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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The areas for action that emerged from dialogue discussion points for further discussion and consideration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders included:

1. Urgent attention be given by government to determine with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders the best policy approaches to address the high cost of groceries and home goods in remote communities
2. Continued access to groceries and home goods be provided for Homeland residents
3. A timely and reliable monitoring and feedback information system be established to provide community store owners/operators with information needed to guide policy making for healthy stores
4. Serious policy consideration be given to investment in local food procurement and production for a secure, sustainable and affordable food supply in remote communities.

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

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

### 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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <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\_3**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/HealthyStories\\_03\\_V2-scaled.jpg](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/HealthyStories_03_V2-scaled.jpg)

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Theme 3: Food affordability and pricing for healthy food**  
<https://youtu.be/RgARTLS8xrs>
- **Gan Gan community store (Laynthapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation)**  
[https://youtu.be/bykFI28BA\\_M](https://youtu.be/bykFI28BA_M)
- **Quality staff, quality produce on Thursday Island**  
<https://youtu.be/R73dMJFeKUE>