

11 August 2024

National Indigenous Australians Agency  
PO Box 2191  
Canberra ACT 2600

[REDACTED]

**Re: National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities**

The Coalition for Healthy Remote Stores welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities.

The Coalition comprises 14 Aboriginal-led, Aboriginal-community controlled and non-government, retail and health organisations, research institutes and universities. We recognise the critical role that food retail stores have in preventing and managing preventable chronic disease. We call for evidence-informed action to support storeowner and retailer efforts to improve the healthiness of food retail stores in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia.

Nationally we are experiencing a cost-of-living crisis, impacting the cost of food, including healthy food options. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in remote communities have for decades experienced high food costs, and this issue has been exacerbated further, as costs have increased. Improving food security will require significant investment and substantial effort to work with communities across a range of areas, such as the eight Focus Areas outlined in the Discussion Paper. As the work of the Coalition focuses on supporting the healthiness of store environments, this response will address the Focus Areas of Stores, Supply Chain, Healthy Economies and Policies, Practice and Governance.

Thank you for considering this response submitted on behalf of the Coalition for Healthy Remote Stores.

For further information please contact:

Dr Megan Ferguson  
The University of Queensland

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## **Response to the consultation on the National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities**

### **Evaluation and Continuous Improvement**

The Strategy must be evaluated regularly, at a minimum every three years, with findings informing the next phase of Strategy implementation. Evaluation must be informed by community and conducted by an experienced third party.

Specifically in relation to the Focus Area of Stores, the Coalition recommends in the Northern Territory, that data collection of the NT Remote Stores Program (meeting food security standards) is linked to the Market Basket Survey (affordability and price of food and drink). The Coalition recommends these data are used for continuous improvement of the NT Remote Stores Program, that it supports stores to achieve Program conditions and that it is flexible to incorporate future opportunities, such as participation in an annual benchmarking approach with a dashboard where non-identifiable Program data are publicly available (as is currently the case for the Market Basket Survey) to promote transparency and the use of data for improvements in food security. The Coalition recommends this approach in the Northern Territory be considered across other jurisdictions in partnership with communities.

### **Focus Area: Families and Community Infrastructure**

The Coalition for Healthy Remote Stores agrees with Families and Community Infrastructure as an important Focus Area, and we agree with the Proposed Intended Outcomes.

The Coalition particularly support the Potential Action to **undertake an analysis of emergency and food relief systems in remote communities**. It is critical to acknowledge and recognise the central role the community store/s must have in the planning for and implementation of, suitable, culturally appropriate, relief models in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Community members, and Store boards and Store owners have the local knowledge, and the facilities and capacity to lead, or advise on, an appropriate food relief model. The provision of non-community led services, such as Foodbank and SecondBite, can impact negatively on store businesses, and thus the ongoing viability of the store, and therefore food security of the community following an emergency.

### **Focus Area: Stores**

The Coalition for Healthy Remote Stores agrees with Stores as an important Focus Area. The Coalition agrees with all Proposed Intended Outcomes and Actions. We will specifically respond to four Potential Actions.

The Coalition agrees with the Potential Action for the development of a **national Industry Code**. A national Industry Code which ideally is, or transitions to, a mandatory code will positively impact the operating environment of stores in remote

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia. A national Industry Code will enable the operationalisation of industry- and evidence-informed best practice actions<sup>1</sup>, a support package for stores to implement best practice actions in their context, and benchmarking of stores to provide feedback and accelerate this implementation. The code must be co-designed with stores and communities. Developing a monitoring and evaluation system that assesses implementation and effectiveness of the national Industry Code is essential.

We note that the national Industry Code must be applicable to all food retail outlets, including takeaways as indicated on page 33 of the Discussion Paper. If takeaways are not included this would result in the **negative consequence** of creating an uneven operating environment for takeaways. This will limit the effectiveness of the national Industry Code and provide takeaways with an unfair business advantage.

Currently what is **missing** in the wording of the Proposed Intended Outcome is the inclusion of takeaways and other food retail outlets (e.g., petrol stations, cafes, bakeries). The wording of this outcome needs to **change**; that is, *Develop national standards for remote stores, takeaways and food retail outlets, including benchmarking and needs based support to build capacity, and support implementation in each jurisdiction to improve food security.*

There is significant work that could inform the development of a national Industry Code. The co-designed continuous improvement benchmarking approach developed with remote stores and Aboriginal health services which incorporates the Healthy Stores 2020 Policy Action series of industry- and evidence-informed best practice co-designed actions<sup>1</sup> (with funded plans to be updated on a two-yearly basis) and a ranking system to encourage further best practice implementation<sup>2</sup> could be used.

Related to regulatory environments, the Coalition has advocated to the Northern Territory Government for four key policy asks to be mandated in the NT Remote Stores Program (see Appendix 1, Policy Brief). These policy asks aim to modify the in-store environment to restrict the promotion and placement, and reduce the sales of unhealthy food and drinks. These key policy asks are derived from locally developed, internationally recognised evidence<sup>3</sup> and incorporated in the Healthy Stores 2020 Policy Action Series.<sup>1</sup>

Two of these key policy asks have been incorporated in the draft NT Remote Stores Program as Standards:

- no placement of sugary soft drinks of more than 600ml in refrigerators,
- less than 50%\* of refrigerator facings made up of sugar sweetened beverages.

\*Note: this is different from the Coalition policy ask of 40% for simplicity.

Two of the key policy asks have been incorporated as Guidelines in the draft NT Remote Stores program:

- no promotional activity on unhealthy food and beverages, including no price promotions or discounts, no volume promotions (e.g., 2-for-1 deals), and no other display material (e.g., posters, shelf stripping),
- no availability of unhealthy food and beverages\* in high traffic areas, including store entrance, checkout area and counter, and front-, between- and end-of-aisle displays (except where infrastructure/situations prevent this).

Strong community support has been demonstrated for the Coalition asks in the Northern Territory by a substantial number of Aboriginal Store Boards and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (see Appendix 2, Letters of Support). The four key asks from the Coalition have already been implemented to some extent by all Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA) managed stores in both the Northern Territory and Queensland. Outback Stores have also implemented some of these practices in stores. Developing a national Industry Code would ensure that all communities would benefit from the implementation of these best practice actions for healthy remote stores.

The Coalition agrees with the Potential Action to **support healthy in-store environments, promote healthy food options and increase availability and affordability of healthy foods**. Community stores have the capacity to significantly influence purchasing patterns through modifying the in-store environment. The Healthy Stores 2020 Policy Action series<sup>1</sup> provides best practice actions to aim for, for healthy stores in remote communities and the Store Scout App provides specific best-practice measures.<sup>4</sup> What is **missing** in the wording of this Potential Action, is the need to disincentive unhealthy food options, in addition to promoting healthy options; that is, *Invest in the capability of community stores to support healthy in-store environments, promote healthy food options **and disincentivise unhealthy food options**, and increased availability and affordability of healthy foods.*

Subsidies are one measure to improve **healthy food affordability**. The Queensland Government has recently increased the discount it applies on essential goods from 5.2% to 20% in all remote communities in Queensland. The magnitude of this 20% subsidy is in line with international recommendations and evidence for modifying purchasing behaviour including evidence generated in the Australian remote store context<sup>5</sup> and will therefore impact on food security and health equity. This action provides a precedent for other jurisdictions.<sup>6</sup>

The Coalition agrees with the Potential Action of, **with community engagement and input, integrating food security in crisis preparedness, response and recovery**. Food insecurity caused by communities becoming isolated due to severe weather events or unexpected extended wet seasons is a significant issue and occurs regularly. Remote stores have operational plans to manage routine weather events,

such as annual road closures due to wet season rains. When transport infrastructure is not adequately maintained in between routine weather events, stores are further impacted. As an example, one Northern Territory store continues to need stock flown in beyond routine weather events, due to a lack of road maintenance. Increasingly, remote communities are subject to extreme weather events which fall outside this routine operational planning. There is no national approach to provide the urgent support required to enable remote community stores to maintain minimum stock levels in these events. This results in community stores having to pay significant additional freight costs to ensure re-supply. If stores are not able to cover these freight costs, there is a **risk** that the community will run low on, or out of, food and other essential supplies. A responsive funding model to support remote community store supply of essential food and goods is needed. The model should incorporate the following elements:

- Community stores must play a central role in continuing to supply essential food and grocery items to their community during periods of isolation.
- Alternative freight methods must be utilised (e.g. air freight, alternative routes) to ensure supply of essential food and grocery items to the store.
- The additional costs incurred by alternative freight methods must be funded by government. It is unviable for many community stores to cover this unplanned cost.
- Funding needs to be accessible to stores at the time of need to ensure adequate supply of essential food and grocery items are maintained.

Emergency relief models that exist in non-remote areas, such as Foodbank and Secondbite, are less relevant in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and have the potential to undermine the viability and the central role of community stores. These relief models should only provide support where a community store is unable to, and with agreement of the community.

The Coalition agrees with the Potential Action to **provide access to support for financially unsustainable stores identified as an essential source of food and groceries**, and especially that this allows for community-led decision-making and store management.

### **Focus Area: Supply Chains**

The Coalition for Healthy Remote Stores agrees with Supply Chains as an important Focus Area. We recognise the Potential Intended Outcomes will assist in creating healthy stores, by increasing the quality and availability of healthy foods and improving healthy food affordability.

The Coalition agrees with the Potential Action of **emergency and disaster risk management policies including supply chain management and food security measures**. Our position on crisis preparedness, response and relief in the Focus Area of Stores is relevant, and thus re-stated here.

The Coalition agrees with the Potential Action of, **with community engagement and input, integrating food security in crisis preparedness, response and recovery.** Food insecurity caused by communities becoming isolated due to severe weather events or unexpected extended wet seasons is a significant issue and occurs regularly. Remote stores have operational plans to manage routine weather events, such as annual road closures due to wet season rains. When transport infrastructure is not adequately maintained in between routine weather events, stores are further impacted. As an example, one Northern Territory store continues to need stock flown in beyond routine weather events, due to a lack of road maintenance. Increasingly, remote communities are subject to extreme weather events which fall outside this routine operational planning. There is no national approach to provide the urgent support required to enable remote community stores to maintain minimum stock levels in these events. This results in community stores having to pay significant additional freight costs to ensure re-supply. If stores are not able to cover these freight costs, there is a **risk** that the community will run low on, or out of, food and other essential supplies. A responsive funding model to support remote community store supply of essential food and goods is needed. The model should incorporate the following elements:

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- The additional costs incurred by alternative freight methods must be funded by government. It is unviable for many community stores to cover this unplanned cost.
- Funding needs to be accessible to stores at the time of need to ensure adequate supply of essential food and grocery items are maintained.

Emergency relief models that exist in non-remote areas, such as Foodbank and Secondbite, are less relevant in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and have the potential to undermine the viability and the central role of community stores. These relief models should only provide support where a community store is unable to, and with agreement of the community.

### **Focus Area: Healthy Economies**

The Coalition for Healthy Remote Stores agrees with Healthy Economies as an important Focus Area. We recognise increased employment, training, and social security income such as through the Remote Area Allowance as a crucial to improving healthy food affordability and food security.

The Coalition broadly agrees with the Potential Action of establishing a **National Sugar Tax and utilising the revenue to provide community level food security; healthy food subsidies/ health reinvestment; and access to drinking water.** The Coalition notes this is also in line with the recommendation by the National Diabetes Inquiry for a national sugar tax.<sup>7</sup>

The Coalition emphasises the unique environments within which remote community stores operate in Australia and the **need** for taxation revenue raised to be redistributed to the most food insecure communities of Australia.

The Northern Territory Market Basket Survey 2023 reports that the average cost of a healthy food basket in remote stores in the Northern Territory was 40% higher than in the average district centre supermarkets.<sup>8</sup> Community stores have long implemented pricing policies which result in sugar sweetened beverages costing more than low-sugar and artificially sweetened beverages, and other high-sugar foods.<sup>9</sup> For example, two retail store groups, Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA) and Outback Stores, providing services to a combined 77 of the over 200 remote Australian community stores, have already implemented a suite of best practice actions which include a 20% mark up on sugar sweetened beverages to discourage the sale of these beverages. Thus, a sugar sweetened beverage (SSB) tax is effectively already in operation in many remote communities. This, along with other measures on high-sugar foods that have been implemented have led to substantial decreases in sugar sales; one store group reported a 34% reduction<sup>10</sup> in sugary drinks to total drink sales (2007-22) and the other, an 8% reduction (2018-23).<sup>11</sup> In these stores, the increased revenue raised by the increase in the price of sugar sweetened beverages is used to reduce the price of fruit and vegetables, water and other healthy foods and drinks.

In 2018, evidence from the co-designed Healthy Stores 2020 study showed that implementing the range of strategies included in the Coalition's key policy asks and detailed in our response in the Stores Focus Area, resulted in a 2.8% reduction in free sugars to energy; or 1.8 tonnes less sugar sold from 10 stores in 12 weeks, while not impacting store profit.<sup>3</sup> Modelled data suggest that the reduction in free sugars achieved by the Healthy Stores 2020 strategy could result in a 10% risk reduction in mortality from cardiovascular disease.<sup>12</sup>

Whilst ALPA, Outback Stores and other stores champion progressive health-promoting policy and practice, a national levy on sugary drinks could see price increases passed on in all remote stores. However, without additional measures, a levy would not provide the concurrent reduction in the price of fruit, vegetables, water, and other healthy foods and drinks that ALPA, Outback Stores and other stores provide. To avoid the **risk** of increasing the overall cost of food and drinks and further increasing food insecurity, the Coalition urges that redistribution of the revenue raised through this taxation is used to implement measure/s which improve the affordability of healthy food in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We propose that consideration be given to:

1. Freight subsidies in remote communities for GST-free foods, like that implemented by the Queensland Government.<sup>13</sup>
2. An increase in the discount on GST-free foods (which are mostly healthy foods) for those living in remote areas of Australia.
3. Where jurisdictionally relevant, the introduction of a floor price for SSBs to prevent discounting that sends a price signal to encourage consumption.

Other measures that would also support the healthiness of remote community stores, include:

1. Funding for community maintenance programs including store building repairs and/or installation and maintenance of generators, refrigerators and freezers to keep perishable foods fresh.
2. Grants to supplement stores in need of financial support. For example, establishment of a fund to support store infrastructure required to supply healthy foods and beverages.

The Coalition supports a tiered taxation model<sup>14</sup> aimed at encouraging reformulation to reduce sugar levels in drinks and that it be accompanied by adequate resources for implementation and monitoring to measure impact.

### **Focus Area: Policies, Practice and Governance**

The Coalition for Healthy Remote Stores agrees with Policies, Practices and Governance as an important Focus Area.

Specifically in relation to further supporting and creating healthy stores, significant resources are required to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander decision-making and **governance** of their stores based on evidence, and a local, trained and supported **workforce** to drive the ongoing implementation of best practice actions in remote community stores.

Significant investment and coordinated effort are required in all Focus Areas of the Discussion Paper to make the change urgently required to improve food security in remote areas. We would be happy to provide further information on our response if needed.

### **References:**

1. [Ferguson M, Brimblecombe J. RE-FRESH CRE, 2021](#)
2. [Brimblecombe J et al, BMC Public Health. 2024](#)
3. [Brimblecombe J, et al, The Lancet Planetary Health. 2020](#)
4. [Jaenke R, et al, Public Health Nutr. 2021](#)
5. [Brimblecombe J, et al. Lancet Public Health. 2017](#)
6. [Ferguson M, et al, Croaky Health Media, 2024](#)
7. [Australian Government, The State of Diabetes Mellitus in Australia in 2024. 2024](#)
8. [Northern Territory Government, NT Market Basket Survey 2023](#)
9. [Ferguson M, et al, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. 2018](#)
10. [Outback Stores. Annual Report 2022-2023](#)
11. [ALPA. Annual Report 2022/2023](#)
12. [Yang Q, et al, JAMA Intern Med. 2014](#)
13. [Miles Doing What Matters: Cheaper groceries, essentials for Cape York, Torres Strait and Gulf. 2024.](#)
14. [Grattan Institute, Sickly sweet: It's time for a sugary drinks tax. 2024](#)



## Appendix 1: The Coalition for Healthy Remote Stores Policy Statement



### Joint Policy Statement of The Coalition for Healthy Remote Stores on the Northern Territory Remote Stores Program

We commend the Northern Territory Government for developing the legislative structure within the NT Remote Stores Program (Program) via the Food Act 2004 (NT), following the cessation of the Remote Stores Licensing Program with the sunseting of The Stronger Futures in the NT Act 2012 on 16 July 2022.

We commend the Northern Territory Government for working to strengthen the Program, (which remains largely unchanged from its inception in 2007), in line with community priorities, evidence, remote retail industry standards, and national and international best practice to improve food security and create healthy stores and communities.

#### Key policy positions

1. We recommend that additional requirements of stores (food businesses including takeaways and roadhouses) be added to the Program to restrict promotion and placement of unhealthy food and beverages. These are:
  - a. no promotional activity on unhealthy food and beverages, including no price promotions or discounts, no volume promotions (e.g., 2-for-1 deals), and no other display material (e.g., posters, shelf stripping),
  - b. no availability of unhealthy food and beverages\* in high traffic areas, including store entrance, checkout area and counter, and front-, between- and end-of-aisle displays (except where infrastructure/situations prevent this),
  - c. no placement of sugary soft drinks of more than 600ml in refrigerators,
  - d. less than 40% of refrigerator facings made up of sugar sweetened beverages,
2. We also recommend:
  - a. supply a minimum of 10 fruit and 15 vegetable varieties, and
  - b. store pricing policy that promotes healthy food and beverages and disincentivises unhealthy food and beverages\* through measures such as cross-subsidisation, a policy already implemented in many stores.
3. We recommend that the Program develop a monitoring and evaluation system that:
  - a. streamlines data collection including the use of tools such as the Market Basket Survey,
  - b. ensures continuous improvement in the Program and its operation,
  - c. routinely reports on the outcomes of the Program in achieving its aims,
  - d. establishes compliance, with mechanisms that support stores to achieve Program conditions, and
  - e. is flexible to incorporate future opportunities, such as participation in an annual benchmarking approach with a dashboard where non-identifiable Program data are publicly available to increase transparency and promote use of available data.

\*Unhealthy (also known as discretionary) food and beverages are high in sugar, fat, and salt<sup>1</sup>. These include sugary drinks (soft drinks, cordial, and fruit drink), confectionery, sugar, sweet biscuits, cake, ice cream, processed meat, pies and sausage rolls, crisps, deep fried foods (e.g., chips), salt<sup>2</sup>.

## Who we are

The Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores is comprised of 14 Aboriginal-led, Aboriginal-community controlled and non-government, retail, health organisations, research institutes and universities. We recognise the critical role that food retail stores have in preventing and managing preventable chronic disease. We call for evidence-informed action to support storeowner and retailer efforts to improve the healthiness of food retail stores in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia. Immediate action is needed to reduce the health inequity experienced and improve health outcomes to support the strong future of communities.

## Facts and evidence

1. Legislation is increasingly used to shape healthy food retail environments, such as the [UK Governments Food \(Promotion and Placement\) \(England\) Regulations 2021](#) to restrict unhealthy food promotions in retail stores.<sup>1</sup>
2. Evidence generated with remote stores shows that for the promotion of healthy food to have a health cost-benefit, strategies that restrict the promotion and placement of unhealthy food and beverages are needed.<sup>2</sup>
3. In 2018, evidence from the co-designed Healthy Stores 2020 study, showed that restricting price promotion (3a above), removing unhealthy food and beverages from high traffic areas (3b) and only displaying sugary soft drink >600ml on shelves rather than in refrigerators (3c), resulted in significant reductions in sugar purchased (i.e., a 2.8% reduction in free sugars; or 1.8 tonnes less sugar from 10 stores in 12 weeks), while not impacting store profit.<sup>3</sup> This strategy is now embedded in ALPA's organisational policy, though only partially adopted (3a, 3b) for stores where there is another store/s in close proximity. Modelled data suggest that the reduction in free sugars achieved with the Healthy Stores 2020 strategy could result in a 10% risk reduction in mortality from cardiovascular disease.<sup>3,4</sup> Chronic disease is responsible for over half of the burden of disease experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.<sup>5</sup> In Central Australia 40% of Aboriginal adults living in remote communities have type 2 diabetes.<sup>6</sup> Diet has been identified as a leading risk factor contributing to chronic disease<sup>5</sup>
4. In 2019, the Healthy Stores 2020 Policy Action series was co-designed by 30 storeowners, retailers, government and non-government personnel and academics from the NT and North Queensland. The series outlines best practice actions to aim for, for healthy stores in remote communities.<sup>7</sup>
5. The NT Market Basket Survey reports that a healthy diet costs 52% more in remote communities than supermarkets, with the gap increasing since 2008.<sup>8</sup> To address healthy food affordability, many stores negotiate deals with suppliers or cross subsidise healthy food and beverages e.g., fruit and vegetables and bottled water, by increasing the price on discretionary food and beverages e.g., confectionery and soft drink.<sup>9</sup>
6. The Store Scout App is designed to assess best practice actions in remote stores and provide feedback to stores on areas of practice that could be strengthened.<sup>10</sup> The use of this tool could be considered in the monitoring and evaluation of the Program.
7. Storeowners, retailers, and those who work to support their efforts are leaders in creating policy and developing evidence to create healthy food retail environments in remote communities.<sup>10-13</sup>

## Responsibility and current contacts

The Coalition is represented by organisations who work in partnership with Aboriginal leaders and community residents to improve food security and healthy stores. Megan Ferguson is the primary contact.

- Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation: Laura Baddeley [Laura.Baddeley@alpa.asn.au](mailto:Laura.Baddeley@alpa.asn.au) 0458441307
- Monash University: A/Prof Julie Brimblecombe [julie.brimblecombe@monash.edu](mailto:julie.brimblecombe@monash.edu) 0447614532
- Menzies School of Health Research: Prof Louise Maple-Brown [communications@menzies.edu.au](mailto:communications@menzies.edu.au) (08) 8946 8658
- The University of Queensland: Dr Megan Ferguson [megan.ferguson@uq.edu.au](mailto:megan.ferguson@uq.edu.au) (07) 3365 5546

## References

1. [UK Government. Consultation outcome. Restricting promotions of products high in fat, sugar or salt London, England: UK Government; 2022.](#)
2. [Brimblecombe J, et al. Lancet Public Health. 2017.](#)
3. [Brimblecombe J, et al. Lancet Planet. Health. 2020.](#)
4. [Yang Q, et al. JAMA Intern Med. 2014.](#)
5. [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Australian Burden of Disease Study 2018: key findings for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Canberra: AIHW; 2021.](#)
6. [Hare M, et al. BMJ. 2022.](#)
7. [Ferguson M, Brimblecombe J. RE-FRESH CRE, editor. Melbourne 2021. \[cited 2021\].](#)
8. [Northern Territory Government. Northern Territory Market Basket Survey 2021, Summary Report. Darwin, Australia: NT Health; 2022.](#)
9. [Ferguson M, et al. IJERPH. 2018](#)
10. [Jaenke R, et al. Public Health Nutr. 2021..](#)
11. [The Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation. Health and Nutrition Strategy Darwin: ALPA.](#)
12. [Outback Stores. Healthy Food Strategy Darwin: Outback Stores; 2022.](#)
13. [Mai Wiru. 2016.](#)

## Appendix 2: Letters of support for Coalition key policy asks.

To the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores,

As members of the store board for the Ajurumu Store, we acknowledge the important role our store plays in the health of our community. We see the negative effects unhealthy foods and drinks has on the health of the people living in our community. We call on the Northern Territory Government to strengthen the Stores Licencing Program to support all stores to make changes to how food can be promoted in stores to enable customers buy more healthy food and drinks.

We fully support The Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores and their call for the Northern Territory Government to incorporate the following requirements in the Community Stores Licensing Program legislation.

- ☐ No promotions on unhealthy food and drinks
- ☐ No unhealthy food and drinks in high traffic areas
- ☐ No sugary soft drinks more than 600ml in refrigerators
- ☐ Less than 40% of refrigerator facings for sugar sweetened beverages
- ☐ A minimum of 10 fresh fruit and 15 fresh vegetable varieties
- ☐ Pricing policy to promote healthy food and drinks and disincentivise unhealthy

We agree to the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores to name us as being in support of what they are calling for (particularly these recommended requirements for the legislation, as listed above).

Warm Regards,

The Ajurumu Store Board.



Date:

To the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores,

As members of the Galiwin'ku Community Advisory Committee, we acknowledge and understand the impact that the food businesses on Elcho Island (the 2 ALPA shops, 2 privately owned stores, 1 café and 1 service station) have on our community's health. We see the negative effects unhealthy foods and drinks has on the health of the people living in our community, especially our children. We are sick of our people ending up on dialysis and dying from chronic disease. We call on the Northern Territory Government to strengthen the Remote Stores Program to support all food businesses to make changes to how food can be promoted in stores to help our community to choose more healthy food and drinks.

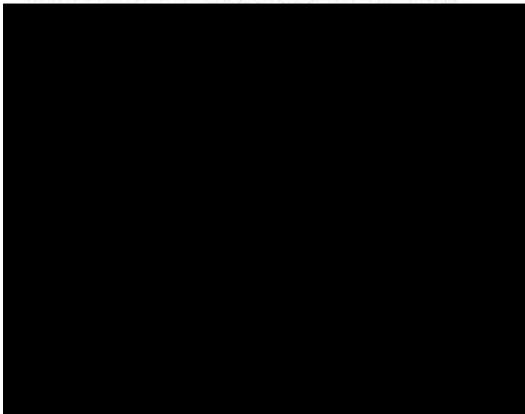
We fully support The Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores and their call for the Northern Territory Government to incorporate the following requirements in the Community Stores Licensing Program legislation.

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- ☐ A minimum of 10 fresh fruit and 15 fresh vegetable varieties
- ☐ Pricing policy to promote healthy food and drinks and disincentivise unhealthy

We agree to the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores to name us as being in support of what they are calling for (particularly these recommended requirements for the legislation, as listed above).

Warm Regards,

The Galiwin'ku Community Advisory Committee



To the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores,

As members of the store board for the Kalkaringi Store, we acknowledge the important role our store plays in the health of our community. We see the negative effects unhealthy foods and drinks has on the health of the people living in our community. We call on the Northern Territory Government to strengthen the Stores Licencing Program to support all stores to make changes to how food can be promoted in stores to enable customers buy more healthy food and drinks.

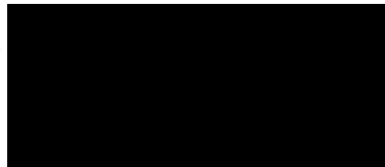
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- ☐ Pricing policy to promote healthy food and drinks and disincentivise unhealthy

We agree to the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores to name us as being in support of what they are calling for (particularly these recommended requirements for the legislation, as listed above).

Warm Regards,

The Kalkaringi Store Board.



Date:

13 JUNE 2023

To the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores,

As members of the store board for the Lajamanu Store, we acknowledge the important role our store plays in the health of our community. We see the negative effects unhealthy foods and drinks has on the health of the people living in our community. We call on the Northern Territory Government to strengthen the Stores Licencing Program to support all stores to make changes to how food can be promoted in stores to enable customers buy more healthy food and drinks.

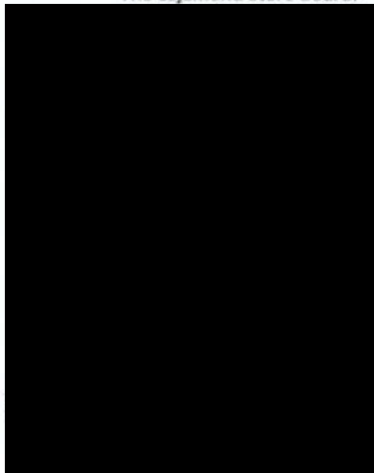
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- ☐ Pricing policy to promote healthy food and drinks and disincentivise unhealthy

We agree to the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores to name us as being in support of what they are calling for (particularly these recommended requirements for the legislation, as listed above).

Warm Regards,

The Lajamanu Store Board.



To the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores,

As members of the store board for the Mikbamurra Store, we acknowledge the important role our store plays in the health of our community. We see the negative effects unhealthy foods and drinks has on the health of the people living in our community. We call on the Northern Territory Government to strengthen the Stores Licencing Program to support all stores to make changes to how food can be promoted in stores to enable customers buy more healthy food and drinks.

We fully support The Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores and their call for the Northern Territory Government to incorporate the following requirements in the Community Stores Licensing Program legislation.

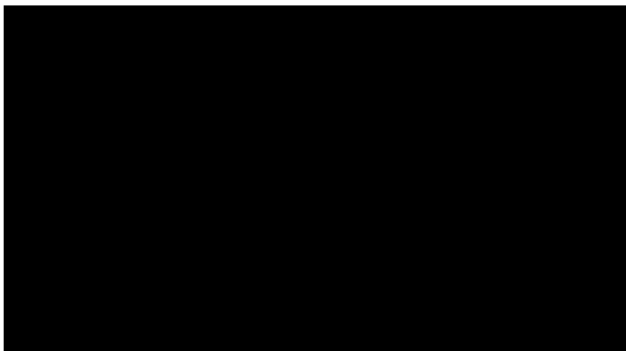
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- ☐ A minimum of 10 fresh fruit and 15 fresh vegetable varieties
- ☐ Pricing policy to promote healthy food and drinks and disincentivise unhealthy

We agree to the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores to name us as being in support of what they are calling for (particularly these recommended requirements for the legislation, as listed above).

Warm Regards,

The Mikbamurra Store Board.

Date: 29/5/2024







# MUTITJULU COMMUNITY ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

ULURU

ABN: 67 475 142 427

Phone: 08 8956 3247

ICN: 4611

Web: [www.mutitjulu.com.au](http://www.mutitjulu.com.au)

email: [ceo@mutitjulu.com.au](mailto:ceo@mutitjulu.com.au)

To the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores,

Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation the owners Ininti Store, we acknowledge the important role our store plays in the health of our community. We see the negative effects unhealthy foods and drinks has on the health of the people living in our community. We call on the Northern Territory Government to strengthen the Stores Licencing Program to support all stores to make changes to how food can be promoted in stores to enable customers buy more healthy food and drinks.

We fully support The Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores and their call for the Northern Territory Government to incorporate the following requirements in the Community Stores Licensing Program legislation.

- ☐ No promotions on unhealthy food and drinks
- ☐ No unhealthy food and drinks in high traffic areas
- ☐ No sugary soft drinks more than 600ml in refrigerators
- ☐ Less than 40% of refrigerator facings for sugar sweetened beverages
- ☐ A minimum of 10 fresh fruit and 15 fresh vegetable varieties
- ☐ Pricing policy to promote healthy food and drinks and disincentivise unhealthy

We agree to the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores to name us as being in support of what they are calling for (particularly these recommended requirements for the legislation, as listed above).

Warm Regards,



Dorethea Randall  
Chairperson  
Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation

Date: 05 May 2023



To the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores,

As members of the store board for the Pirlangimpi Store, we acknowledge the important role our store plays in the health of our community. We see the negative effects unhealthy foods and drinks has on the health of the people living in our community. We call on the Northern Territory Government to strengthen the Stores Licencing Program to support all stores to make changes to how food can be promoted in stores to enable customers buy more healthy food and drinks.

We fully support The Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores and their call for the Northern Territory Government to incorporate the following requirements in the Community Stores Licensing Program legislation.

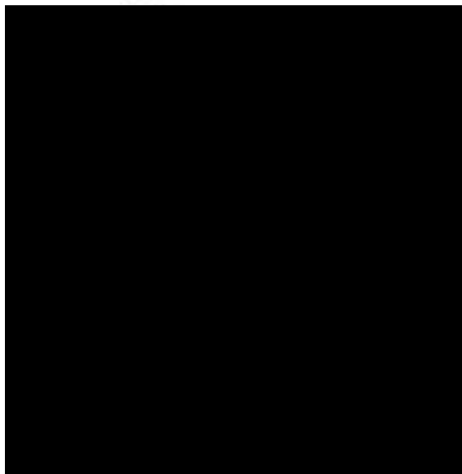
- ☐ No promotions on unhealthy food and drinks
- ☐ No unhealthy food and drinks in high traffic areas
- ☐ No sugary soft drinks more than 600ml in refrigerators

We agree to the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores to name us as being in support of what they are calling for (particularly these recommended requirements for the legislation, as listed above).

Warm Regards,

The Pirlangimpi Store Board

Date: 21/6/23



To the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores,

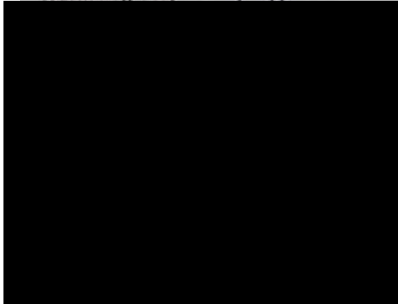
As members of the store board for the Warliburru Store, we acknowledge the important role our store plays in the health of our community. We see the negative effects unhealthy foods and drinks has on the health of the people living in our community. We call on the Northern Territory Government to strengthen the Stores Licencing Program to support all stores to make changes to how food can be promoted in stores to enable customers buy more healthy food and drinks.

We fully support The Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores and their call for the Northern Territory Government to incorporate the following requirements in the Community Stores Licensing Program legislation.

- ☒ No promotions on unhealthy food and drinks
- ☒ No unhealthy food and drinks in high traffic areas
- ☒ No sugary soft drinks more than 600ml in refrigerators

We agree to the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores to name us as being in support of what they are calling for (particularly these recommended requirements for the legislation, as listed above).

Warm Regards, 1 2 /





To the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores,

14/07/2023

As representatives of the Congress Joint Remote Health Board, comprised of Directors of the Amooinguna Health Services Aboriginal Corporation, Mpwelarra Health Aboriginal Corporation, Utju Health Service Aboriginal Corporation, Mutitjulu Community Health Service Aboriginal Corporation, Western Aranda Health Aboriginal Corporation and community representatives from Imanpa and Kaltukatjara, we are deeply concerned by the impact of food insecurity and the intake of unhealthy food and drinks on the health of our communities.

We are confronted every day by the consequences of a diet high in sugar and other unhealthy food and drinks. Change that addresses the underlying causes of these health concerns is desperately needed. In remote communities, the store is integral to the food security and diet of community members. If strategies are not put in place to improve the healthiness of the store environment, the purchasing patterns of community members will remain unchanged, and we will continue to be faced with the devastating impacts of chronic disease and preventable illness on our communities.

Action must be taken to support communities to reduce the amount of sugar and unhealthy food and drinks being purchased at the store. The opportunity to strengthen the community stores licensing requirements is too important to miss. We need the Northern Territory Government to act and strengthen the NT Food Security Program to create healthier food environments for all remote communities in the Northern Territory.

We fully support The Coalition for Healthy Remote Stores and their call for the Northern Territory Government to incorporate the following requirements into the NT Food Security Program legislation.

- No promotions on unhealthy food and drinks
- No unhealthy food and drinks in high traffic areas
- No sugary soft drinks more than 600ml in refrigerators
- Less than 40% of refrigerator facings for sugar sweetened beverages
- A minimum of 10 fresh fruit and 15 fresh vegetable varieties
- Pricing policy to promote healthy food and drinks and disincentivise unhealthy.

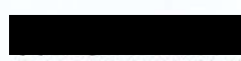
We agree for The Coalition for Healthy Remote Stores to name us as being in support of their call to strengthen the stores licensing program by including the above requirements.

Yours sincerely,



Graham Dowling, Chairperson

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Aboriginal Corporation ICN 7823



Roseanne Ellis, Chairperson

Mareep Oliver, Director

Amoonguna Health Service Aboriginal Corporation ICN 7083



Veronica Wallace, Director

Renee Cavenagh, Director

Mpwelarre Health Aboriginal Corporation ICN 7072



Sarah Gallagher, Chairperson

Jonathon Doolan, Director

Utju Health Service Aboriginal Corporation ICN 4034



David Moneymoon, Director

Kimberley Taylor, Director

Mutitjulu Community Health Service Aboriginal Corporation ICN 761



Marion Swift, Chairperson

Rachel Kantawara, Director

Western Aranda Health Aboriginal Corporation ICN 1867



Tanya Luckey

Gary Mumu

Community Representatives from Imanpa



Lyle Kenny

Bernard Bell

Community Representatives from Kaltukatjara



To the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores,

As members of the Galiwin'ku Nutrition Action Group, we acknowledge and understand the impact that the food businesses on Elcho Island (the 2 ALPA Stores, 2 privately owned stores, 1 café and 1 service station) have on our community's health. We see the negative effects unhealthy foods and drinks has on the health of the people living in our community, especially our children. We call on the Northern Territory Government to strengthen the Remote Stores Program to support all food businesses to make changes to how food can be promoted in stores to help our community to choose more healthy food and drinks.

We fully support The Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores and their call for the Northern Territory Government to incorporate the following requirements in the Remote Stores Program legislation.

- ☐ No promotions on unhealthy food and drinks
- ☐ No unhealthy food and drinks in high traffic areas
- ☐ No sugary soft drinks more than 600ml in refrigerators
- ☐ Less than 40% of refrigerator facings for sugar sweetened beverages
- ☐ A minimum of 10 fresh fruit and 15 fresh vegetable varieties
- ☐ Pricing policy to promote healthy food and drinks and disincentivise unhealthy

We agree to the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores to name us as being in support of what they are calling for (particularly these recommended requirements for the legislation, as listed above).

Warm Regards,

The Galiwin'ku Nutrition Action Group





Dorothy Gapany (sitting, front), Galiwin'ku long-term resident, experienced in all workplaces

Djumbu, Miwatj Public Health Worker

Djirmurmur Ganambarr, Senior Supervisor, Community Development Program

Dorothy Yungirringa (sitting), lead of the Galiwin'ku Nutrition Action Group

Verity Burarrwanga, Yalu Aboriginal Corporation

Caroline Ngurrwuthun, Shepherdson College Canteen worker

Naomi Dhamarrandji, Shepherdson College Canteen worker

Jennifer Batumbil, working at Elcho Island ALPA Store 28 years

George Gurruwiwi (not pictured), Melbourne University and Menzies health researcher

Margaret Ganambarr (not pictured), Crisis Accommodation, Galiwin'ku Women's Space

6/06/2024



11<sup>th</sup> September 2023

To the Coalition for Remote Healthy Stores,

As members of the Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation Board, we are deeply concerned for the health of our communities and families both at present and for future generations. Every day we see the impact that food insecurity and high intake of discretionary foods and takeaway has in our communities.

We commend the Northern Territory Government for adopting the Stores Licensing Scheme and ask them to listen the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leaders speaking out about their concerns for food insecurity by supporting stronger healthy stores policy. This is a significant opportunity to imbed evidence based and effective preventative health strategies within community-based stores across the Northern Territory. With the rising rates of type 2 diabetes, diabetes related foot complications including amputations, and chronic kidney disease we cannot afford to miss this opportunity to strengthen stores licensing programs.

Community stores are fundamental to food security and provide most of the food consumed in our communities. Action must be taken to help stores implement healthy stores policy, and to support community members to make healthy food choices. These actions do not restrict our food choices but make it easier for people to select the healthy food options.

We voice our full support to The Coalition for Healthy Remote Stores and their call for the Northern Territory Government to incorporate the following requirements into the NT Food Security Program legislation.

- No promotions on unhealthy food and drinks
- No unhealthy food and drink in high traffic areas
- No sugary soft drinks more than 600ml in refrigerators
- Less than 40% of refrigerator facings for sugar sweetened beverages
- A minimum of 10 fresh fruit and 15 fresh vegetable varieties
- Pricing policy to promote healthy food and drinks and disincentives on unhealthy foods

We agree for the Coalition for Healthy Remote Stores to name us as being in support of the call to strengthen the stores licensing program by including the above policy action requirements.

Yours sincerely,

Melanie Rarrtjiwuy Herdman  
Chairperson, on behalf of the Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation Board