

***How often should the Strategy be evaluated over the ten-year implementation period?
What resources and governance mechanism need to be developed to support effective
monitoring, evaluation and learning throughout implementation? What already exists?***

- Agreed with 3-yearly evaluations stated within discussion paper, however also needs smaller annual monitoring to help inform yearly business plans and spending each financial year of teams and organisations that work with remote communities.

What already exists:

- NT Market Basket Surveys – would be good to not de-identify data, to allow easier investigation into the contributing factors of price differences between different communities/regions/management or ownership e.g. privately owned vs. store group managed like ALPA/Outback Stores.
- Monash University Benchmarking data
- Consider Menzie's Good Food Systems Project model and tools for monitoring, evaluation and learning throughout implementation

Housing –

- *Housing for Health » Healthabitat* has demonstrated, with a strong evidence base, that funding spent towards repairs and maintenance of homes is more effective towards improving the health hardware (working showers/ kitchens etc.) than building new homes. 'Safe water' should be expanded to include water being of acceptable palatability.
- There are some suggestions for the residents to have to contribute financially to the cost of housing maintenance if damage was actively done by them.
- Also need to find out from communities the types of houses they actually want – there may be more scope to build new homes that are more efficient to build e.g. block of 1-bedroom units instead of 3-4 bedroom houses.

Stores and Supply Chains –

- Good to see these are included; need to ensure standalone takeaways are accounted for under NT Remote Stores Program (previously the NT Remote Stores Licensing program) as well as other jurisdictions i.e. smaller sites that are not necessarily grocery shops but still a significant food source for the community, especially as many standalone takeaways have opening hours outside those of the main store so are the only food source during those hours.
- Monash University's, Menzies' and the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation's (ALPA's) research and work in remote stores would be a good foundation to inform national practices, policies and standards.

Health –

- Need to ensure health as a downstream/acute care focus area does not displace focus or funding on upstream/preventive/environmental factors that target the social determinants of health.

Healthy Economies –

- More routine education/support for communities in financial planning and budgeting skills.

- In regards to increasing employment of local community members as store staff – in general this does not seem to be a gap in the Top End NT communities, but rather it may be more appropriate to increase training of local community members to do their own housing repairs and food agriculture.

General feedback on the discussion paper –

- Overall the Strategy is very aspirational - we would like more details on where all the funding and resources for these, as well as more breakdown and detail of smaller, more manageable short-term goals.
- As there are so many goals and proposed actions, we would like to see how these will be prioritised.
- It is commonly observed that family humbugging and overcrowding often contributes majorly to food insecurity, however often only certain people within the family/household (i.e. the elderly members) are the ones who have their food taken from them. It would be good to see more options for these particular family members to protect their food supply.