

9 August 2024

Ref: HWQLD/24/329

Strategy Partners
National Indigenous Australians Agency



Dear Strategy Partners,

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

Health and Wellbeing Queensland (HWQld) congratulates the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) on the drafting of the National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities (the National Strategy) Discussion Paper. We also commend NIAA for aligning the proposed National Strategy with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. This alignment highlights the numerous synergies across strategies, policies, and agendas at all levels of government.

HWQld was established on 1 July 2019 as an independent statutory body within the health portfolio of the Queensland Government. HWQld's objective is to improve the health and wellbeing of the Queensland population by reducing health inequity and the burden of chronic disease, with an initial focus on physical activity, nutrition, and wellbeing. A key area of focus for our agency has been addressing food insecurity in remote First Nations communities in Queensland.

In November 2023, HWQld released [Gather + Grow 2023-2032, the Queensland Government's plan to improve food security in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities](#). As part of Gather + Grow 2023-2032, HWQld established a Steering Committee for food security in Queensland remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and appreciate the ongoing commitment of NIAA as a member of the Committee.

Gather + Grow 2023-2032 was developed through thorough consultation with remote First Nations communities in Queensland and multi-sector stakeholders, including all tiers of Government. Based on our learning as the lead agency in developing and coordinating Gather + Grow 2023-2032, our key recommendations for shaping of the National Strategy are:

1. Reduce the number of Focus Areas in alignment with community priorities and relevant state and territory policies. Where appropriate, the scope of Focus Areas could be broadened, more clearly defined, and linked to target outcomes. This will refine the intent and delivery of the Strategy.

Ground Floor



2. HWQld suggests the National Strategy leverage learnings, information and actions related to the Gather + Grow 2023-2032, which may have relevance across Australia. Some Gather + Grow 2023-2032 priority areas, actions, enablers, guiding principles, governance mechanisms and case studies may be relevant to the National Strategy. This information may also assist to define what are the responsibilities of the federal government versus state responsibilities, as well as identify where shared responsibility is needed.
3. Further information is required on evaluation. Many of the measures required to demonstrate impact in food security are currently not routinely measured. This should be considered as part of the evaluation plan with priority given to measures that reflect community perceptions of success.

HWQld welcomes the opportunity to work in partnership with the NIAA on the above. Our full response to the Discussion Paper is attached. This response is founded in research and data and draws on our experience working in an agile and evidence-based way to deliver positive health and wellbeing outcomes for Queenslanders.

Should you require information in relation to this matter, please contact Dr Simone Nalatu, Director – Equity and Communities, HWQld, by email at [REDACTED] telephone on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

**Chief Executive Officer
Health and Wellbeing Queensland**

making healthy happen