

Letters of support

Belinda Hutchinson AC, Chancellor The University of Sydney



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Belinda Hutchinson AC
Chancellor

25 June 2020

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

I have pleasure in providing a letter of support for Food Ladder's submission in response to the Federal Inquiry into food security in remote indigenous communities.

I have been aware of Food Ladder since its inception through my role as Chancellor of the University of Sydney.

The work Food Ladder is doing in remote indigenous communities is making a valuable contribution to ensuring the long term health and well-being of our oldest surviving culture.

The fact that healthy food is inaccessible and unaffordable has meant that healthy food habits have deteriorated in many remote communities. A lack of healthy food contributes to systemic social inequities including high rates of chronic disease and poor educational and employment engagement.

Food Ladder propose whatever can be grown on community, by the community, should be with the aid of appropriate agri-tech and the support of multidisciplinary programs. These programs will increase the availability and nutritional value of food, reduce costs for local stores and improve attitudes and healthy eating practices.

Food Ladder's ancillary programs include incorporating indigenous bush foods, healthy eating workshops, accredited training for school leavers, STEM aligned curriculum resources for teachers and developing offtake agreements with local retailers which will ensure the shared ownership and longevity of the enterprise by the community.

I highly recommend that the Committee consider engaging Food Ladder to play a role in implementing their proven and practical solutions in partnership with indigenous communities.

Yours sincerely

Office of the Chancellor
F23 Administration Building, Level 5
The University of Sydney
NSW 2006 Australia

T +61 2 9351 5701
E chancellor@sydney.edu.au
sydney.edu.au

ABN 15 211 513 464
CRICOS 00026A