

## Charles Perkins Centre



**Professor Stephen J Simpson AC FAA FRS**  
Academic Director, Charles Perkins Centre

24 June 2020

Kelly McJannett  
CEO  
Food Ladder

By email: [kelly@foodladder.org](mailto:kelly@foodladder.org)

Dear Kelly,

**RE: Food Ladder's response to federal inquiry into food security in remote Indigenous communities**

We would like to support Food Ladder's response to a federal inquiry into food security in remote Indigenous communities. We support the aim of the Food Ladder model to deliver lasting and sustainable nutrition, education and employment outcomes locally within communities.

The main contributors to food insecurity in remote communities are that healthy, fresh food is inaccessible and unaffordable, exacerbated by a loss of healthy food practices directly linked to intergenerational marginalisation and poverty. The consequences for health, educational attainment and employment are dire.

These problems will not be solved by subsidising existing, unhealthy foods and expanding their range and availability, but rather require a reliable and affordable supply of healthy, fresh food. It is also vital that there is shared ownership of the enterprise by the community, and that the programs are scalable yet meet the local needs and aspirations of communities as Indigenous people plan and manage a food system that best fits their needs. As such, we support Food Ladder's program to increase the availability, affordability and nutritional value of food and to help support healthy eating practices through a commitment to building sustainable partnerships.

We hope that Food Ladder's response will be considered in the inquiry as it has never been more pressing that we champion a solution that provides agency and outcomes to the world's oldest surviving culture.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen J. Simpson on behalf of Dr Josephine Gwynn, Adjunct Professor Louise Sylvan, and Professor Stephen Colagiuri