

JAAM Foundation

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Jane Clifford
Director/Philanthropist

26 June 2020

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

Dear Committee Secretary,

I highly recommend and support the submission of Food Ladder. Food Ladder can provide valuable insight and a working solution for the Federal inquiry into food security in remote Indigenous communities.

The JAAM Foundation first became acquainted with the valuable work of Food Ladder through its Founding Chairman, Alex Shead. Our foundation is focused on addressing disadvantage and we were compelled by the practical and sustainable nature of the Food Ladder model. The JAAM Foundation were happy to become financial supporters in 2014 and I joined the board of Food Ladder in 2019.

I don't need to elaborate on the challenges for remote Indigenous communities when it comes to food. Poor health outcomes derive from a lack of access to fresh, healthy and affordable food. The flow on affects are witnessed in chronic disease, poor educational engagement and retention, and employment prospects. A Federal inquiry into food security in remote Indigenous communities is vital. It is also fortuitous to come at a time when Food Ladder, with twelve years experience, is at a point where it is able to scale up its capacity and meet demand. The story of its success has meant that Food Ladder has been inundated by a flood of requests for the deployment of the Food Ladder model, in all the States and Territories.

The attraction of Food Ladder is its multidisciplinary approach. A hydroponic garden not only provides local, fresh, and inexpensive food, but also the opportunity for engagement and learning about food. This is extraordinarily valuable. The system provides a base for community engagement and education. School children can learn about and grow their own food, there are "Mums and Bubs" healthy eating workshops, job training for school leavers through accredited courses, STEM aligned curriculum resources for teachers and connecting with culture through growing bush foods.

Food Ladder is a proven and successful model, as demonstrated by demand for its programs. It has not been imposed upon communities but sought out by them. Food Ladder works in partnership with communities with the aim of creating independent outcomes. I heartily endorse the not-for-profit enterprise Food Ladder. It is a practical, sustainable model that can provide swift outcomes on food security in remote Indigenous communities.

Yours Sincerely,



Jane Clifford
Director

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