

Save the Children



24th June 2020

Mr Scott McDonald
Horticulture & Training Manager.
Food Ladder Katherine NT 0851

Dear Scott,

RE: Letter of Support – Food Ladder’s submission to the Federal Inquiry into Food Security in Remote Indigenous Communities

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this Letter of Support for Food Ladder’s submission to the Federal Enquiry into Food Security in Remote Indigenous Communities.

Save the Children Australia has been delivering community driven programs and services to children and families across the Katherine Region since 1997 in communities including Borroloola, Robinson River, Minyerri, Jilkminggan, Mataranka, Beswick, Barunga, Manyallaluk, Binjari, Rockhole, Kalano and the Township of Katherine.

The strong, respectful relationships we have established and maintained in these Communities over this time, I believe, uniquely places us to confirm Food Ladder’s identified contributors to the lack of Food Security as being true indicators of the direct negative impact these have on the health and well-being of the children and families in these communities when:

- 1) Healthy food is inaccessible
- 2) Healthy food is unaffordable
- 3) Healthy food habits have deteriorated

Save the Children witnessed this in the Community of Jilkminggan, about 130klms out of Katherine, who had, for 15 years, a very productive Community owned and operated 10-acre farm that produced fresh fruit, vegetables, fresh eggs and poultry for the community, providing each family with a huge box of healthy fresh produce weekly.

In 2007 the NT Government introduced the “Mega Shires”, which saw many communities amalgamated under one overarching body. Communities were “asset stripped” and individual communities’ lost ownership and control of their ventures. This caused anger and despondency which resulted in the farm being closed.

The health, well-being, and psychological impacts on this community were nothing short of horrendous and they have never recovered.

I implore this Enquiry to fully support the recommendations put forward by Food Ladder that we believe will not only support Communities to have access to fresh, affordable produce but will also support the restoration of self-determination and pride across all sectors of the community whilst creating employment pathways for young people who struggle to see a worthwhile future.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Bev Patterson
Katherine Regional Manager
Save the Children
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