

## RIG News #2 Oct 09: Local Food Production and National Health Reform

**RIG Network has been asked to make a submission to the national health reform process - further to our recent survey findings, we'd value your input to our submission.**

A Healthier Future for All Australians - Closing the health gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Recommendation 64 relates to good nutrition and wellbeing and local food production can be part of the 'integrated' package of measures that it refers to. (see Recommendation 64 in full below).

***If you are interested, we'd value your quick feedback on one or more of the following:***

- 1 - can local food production meaningfully contribute to good nutrition and a healthy diet?  
yes/no/only a little/other?!
- 2 - what sort of role do you think local food production can play alongside the current focus on Food Stores?
- 3 - what key strategic issues that need to be considered looking 'forward' to better support local food production (ie. learning from past food garden experiences, what needs to be done better in the future and at what scale?)
- 4 - nutrition education projects that you believe WORK that have involved local food production/preparation
- 5 - what sort of community projects you'd like to see investments allocated to for food security/nutrition?
- 6 - how can communities best be consulted and supported so that they develop and own local food garden initiatives?
- 7 - other thoughts/comments

### **RECOMMENDATION 64: A Healthier Future for All Australians - Final Report June 2009**

“64. Good nutrition and a healthy diet are key elements of a healthy start to life. But many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote areas have limited access to affordable healthy foods. We recommend an integrated package to improve the affordability of fresh food - particularly fruit and vegetables - in these targeted remote communities. This package would include subsidies to bring the price of fresh food in line with large urban and regional centres, investment in nutrition education and community projects, and food and nutrient supplementation for schoolchildren, infants, and pregnant and breastfeeding women. The strategy would be developed in consultation with these Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, building on some of the successful work already underway. There would be an evaluation to assess the benefits of extending the program to other communities, focusing on the changes to eating habits and improvements to health”.

A Healthier Future for All Australians - Final Report June 2009, is at.

<http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/nhhrc-report-toc>

If you go this page, the full list of recommendations can be downloaded.

We'd value your thoughts and suggestions to help build the strategic case for local food production in remote communities as there is a lot going on in this area that we can contribute to, including:

1. COAG - to develop a national strategy to address food security in remote Indigenous communities by end 2009.

2. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition Strategy & Action Plan (NATSINSAP) Steering Committee is going to be running a one-day Indigenous nutrition advocacy symposium in Canberra on the 22nd of April, 2010.

Many thanks,

Anthea

*(If you would not like to receive further RIG Network newsletters and correspondence please send an email to [rig@remoteindigenousgardens.net](mailto:rig@remoteindigenousgardens.net))*

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