

Obesity Advocacy Targets

Improving nutrition for all Aboriginal people in Western Australia, particularly in rural and remote communities

Advocate for:

1. A whole-of-government approach to ensure all Aboriginal People in Western Australian have access to culturally appropriate, secure and affordable housing, adequate property maintenance and functional health hardware to safely store, prepare and cook nutritious meals.
2. A State Policy that mandates healthy food supply and food availability as an enforceable and explicit requirement for regional and remote community stores, supported and governed by local community councils, developed in association with Aboriginal groups.
3. A State Policy that builds on existing legislation to create strong mandatory and enforceable requirements for the availability and access of safe drinking water for ALL Aboriginal communities, regardless of their geographic location in Western Australia.
4. A state-wide workforce strategy that supports the training, ongoing development and support for a larger Aboriginal workforce to work with regional and remote communities. For example, Aboriginal Health Workers, Aboriginal Environmental Health Workers and Aboriginal Liaison Officers.
5. A State Policy that mandates culturally and socially appropriate, consistent and evidence-informed healthy food labelling schemes across all Western Australian regional and remote community stores (eg. Skatte Tucker).
6. A well-resourced, sustainable and capable nutrition and obesity prevention-related workforce that services regional and remote communities e.g. community nutritionists.
7. A social media campaign which effectively examines and publicises the role and influence of the ultra-processed food and drink industries in the availability, access and marketing of junk food and drink in regional and remote community stores in Western Australia.
8. Anecdotal “stories” and qualitative data to be considered credible sources of evidence in the application for funding, and in the reporting and evaluation of programs and services for Aboriginal people.
9. The Western Australian Indigenous Storybook be reinstated with sustained and increased funding to ensure it is integral to the planning, delivery and dissemination of Aboriginal public health projects across Western Australia.
10. A sustained and well-funded media advocacy campaign to promote public debate, and generate community support for changes in Aboriginal communities, specifically equitable access to safe and clean drinking water.

Prepared by PHAIWA in consensus with sector stakeholders

