

6 September 2021

Ms Linda Burney MP
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians, Families and Social Services
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: Linda.Burney.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Shadow Minister Burney,

As we are learning to live with the COVID-19 pandemic, health and wellbeing is at the forefront of the nation's consciousness. A critical element of maintaining good health and wellbeing is consuming a diet rich in nutritious food. Dietitians Australia is aware that many communities across Australia have inequitable access to quality food and frequently experience food insecurity. We recognise that this has been impacted by COVID-19 and the Government's stringent public health responses during the pandemic. Dietitians Australia would like to offer our expertise to you and your colleagues to ensure all Australians can enjoy good health and wellbeing, particularly during such difficult times.

Last week we had a productive meeting with your colleague, Shadow Assistant Minister Ged Kearney. Ms Kearney suggested we reach out to you for a meeting together with herself to discuss key issues related to food security, particularly in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Dietitians Australia has long advocated for measures to promote better health across the Australian community. Our recent work, most relevant to your portfolio, includes:

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health** – [Submission](#) in response to the Senate Inquiry into Food Pricing and Food Security in Remote Indigenous Communities
- **Mental health** – [Briefing paper](#) on the role of food and nutrition in mental health
- **Disability** – [Briefing paper](#) on the provision of food and nutrition for people with disability

A summary of our other advocacy work can be found here [Advocacy » Dietitians Australia](#).

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and Ms Kearney to discuss the important role of dietitians, food and nutrition in rural and remote locations across Australia, and how we may be able to offer assistance to you and your colleagues to champion the needs of these valuable, yet under-served, communities.

I look forward to hearing from your office to organise a meeting at your convenience.

Yours sincerely



Robert Hunt
Chief Executive Officer