**Deadly Mereny Noonak Ngyn Moort: good food for my people: mid-term evaluation**

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**Background:** In the wheatbelt region of Western Australia, multiple conditions exist that limit access and availability to healthy foods, putting many people at risk of food insecurity. The wheatbelt is classified as regional and remote and many people live on low incomes. The rate of obesity in the wheatbelt is higher than the West Australian average. Evidence suggests a strong correlation between food insecurity and obesity.

The wheatbelt also has an Aboriginal population of approximately 3025 people (4%). With links between nutrition and chronic disease, food insecurity contributes to the significant gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Australia. Subsequently, a three-year project has been funded with the aim to increase food security and thereby improve health outcomes among the wheatbelt Aboriginal communities.

**Method:** A comprehensive needs assessment has been conducted through surveys and meetings with community members and stakeholders. Findings from this needs assessment identified barriers and enablers to achieve food security in the region. Using a community development approach, and collaborating with Aboriginal and other community-level stakeholders, region-wide and town-specific strategies are being implemented to address gaps to the availability, access and utilisation of healthy food. Strategies include building the capacity of Aboriginal health workers in nutrition literacy to enable the effective delivery of an Aboriginal health program; assessing the availability of food by surveying supermarkets; supporting schools in low socioeconomic areas to meet state policy standards; and supporting emergency food relief providers to provide nutritious food to those most vulnerable to food insecurity.

**Results:** This paper will discuss the findings from the mid-term evaluation of the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Food Security Project.