**Foundation Food**

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Garlbagu, a social enterprise wholly owned by the Ngarluma and Yinjibarndi Foundation (NYFL) is holding a two-year pilot project of Foundation Food, in the Western Pilbara town of Roebourne, Western Australia.

Foundation Food is an innovative project, trialling a ‘social supermarket’ model to address food security, previously untested in a remote Australian community.

What is important about Foundation Food is that while common in metropolitan regions in the UK and; while other similar foodbank – type models operate in Australia (predominantly in metropolitan areas) a social supermarket model, has not been implemented in remote Australia.

The project ambitiously aims to translate this metropolitan UK initiative to Roebourne, Western Australia.

The much larger ambition and overall objective of Foundation Food is the establishment of a network of social supermarkets, under the banner of the name Foundation Food throughout the North-West.

The vast majority of the Kimberley and Pilbara are in the fifth quintile of the Western Australian Food Stress Index. This is despite the number of ‘mining towns’ (directly correlating to high and very high-income households) in the region. Furthermore, anecdotally, organisations in the Western Pilbara are reporting financial illiteracy and monthly pay cycles as being directly responsible for the need for many of these households (Indigenous and non- Indigenous) to access charitable food.

Current models that address food security in regional and urban areas do not operate in the North West, further, it is the feeling of the collective that a location- based response, that is suited to remote and very remote areas, including Indigenous communities, is what is required in the Western Pilbara.

Foundation Food is currently seeking funding from Woodside Energy and Lotterywest and any support of the project more broadly across government would be well received at this important time.