



**NAATSIHWP**  
National Association of Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners

## MEDIA RELEASE

17 November 2020

The National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners (NAATSIHWP) join other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations in opposing the Woolworth Plan to open one of its biggest Dan Murphy's liquor outlets in close proximity to the dry communities of Bagot, Minmarama and Kulakuk.

The risks to the health and wellbeing of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in these communities is great and community leaders and Aboriginal health organisations have been vocal in their opposition to the proposal. Continuing on with the initiative seems out of step with Woolworth Group's internal policies including their [Reconciliation Action Plan July 2019 - 2021](#) and [2020 Corporate Responsibility Strategy](#) that includes a focus on '*inspiring customers to consume all of their products in a healthy sustainable way*'.

The approach taken by the Northern Territory Government in introducing legislation that would sideline the independent Liquor Commission and give the director of liquor licensing 30 days to decide on the application also does not allow for proper consideration of the public health impacts or the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In this respect the move appears to be out of line with the new ways of working as set out under the new Closing the Gap Agreement signed by all Australia Governments. The proposal directly impacts upon the lives of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living adjacent to the proposed sites. It is therefore not unreasonable to expect that their voices are heeded as part of the decision making process.

We encourage you to voice your concerns with this proposal by signing the petition at: <https://www.change.org/p/woolworths-keep-grog-out-of-our-communities>.

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