

'Life just keeps throwing lemons': the lived experience of food insecurity among Aboriginal people with disabilities in the West Kimberley

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This presentation reports the findings of a qualitative study into the impact of chronic food insecurity on the daily lives of Aboriginal people with disabilities and their carers residing in the rural and remote Kimberley region of Western Australia. Nutritious food is important to maintaining health, particularly for Aboriginal people with disabilities who are at the greatest risk of a range of chronic health conditions, illnesses and secondary disability. The high cost of living, including food expenses, and the generally low incomes of residents mean that food insecurity is common in the remote areas of the West Kimberley. A large portion of the population living in remote and rural areas of the Kimberley is Aboriginal with chronic illness and disability twice as likely among this group. Economic exclusion and further food insecurity combined with a lack of access to nutritious food interact in a cyclical way with disability, resulting in secondary impairments and ill-health. Participants in this research consistently reported that they coped with food insecurity by fishing and crabbing on traditional lands. The link between land sovereignty, food sovereignty and food security for Indigenous Australians has important implications for native title as local and global food sovereignty movements. #CripArmy - Responding to the 21st century challenge posed by the charitable model of disability in neoliberal Australia and beyond.