



Freighting health to remote Indigenous communities

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will hear from **Ian Lovell, a cold chain and freight logistics consultant**, as part of its inquiry into stores in remote Indigenous communities.

Mr Lovell has undertaken research, policy development, freight analysis and facilitation and consulting for Government and non-government organisations. He has had direct freight improvement experience in the APY Lands, Oodnadatta, NSW, NT and WA.

To highlight the importance of the cold chain link during the transportation of fresh food to remote indigenous communities, Mr Lovell asks the question:

‘Would you rather eat a crisp lettuce or a limp one; a rotten apple or a fresh one?’

To assist in Closing the Gap for Indigenous Australians through better nutrition, he believes food must be appealing and taste good. The food must be regularly available and it must be affordable.

Mr Lovell is proposing the Commonwealth Government establish a small national remote indigenous food supply chain coordination office. A national office could retain regionally accessible freight facilitators to network communities, stores, suppliers and transport operators. Making improvements to the supply chain would improve the quality of fresh food to remote Indigenous communities.

The Committee Chairman the Hon Bob Debus stated:

‘The Committee has received evidence that Indigenous people in remote locations are the ‘connoisseurs’ of fresh food in Australia: they will buy good quality fresh food even at a price but will go without rather than purchase poor quality food that is damaged or is past its use by date.

Mr Lovell’s expertise and understanding of the food supply chain to remote Indigenous communities will be invaluable to the inquiry. The Committee is also keen to explore his idea of a national remote indigenous food supply chain coordination office.’

Public hearing on Thursday 10 September 2009

Venue: Committee Room 1R2 Parliament House

12.15pm Ian Lovell, cold chain and freight logistics consultant

For media comment, please contact the Chair Bob Debus MP on (02) 6277 4490
For programs, see the Committee website **For background information**, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or atsia.reps@aph.gov.au