



Shopping in remote stores in the Kimberley

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will next travel to the Western Australia to visit Broome to hear about the operation of remote community stores across the Kimberley.

In Broome the Committee will hear from two companies which provide management solutions to remote stores - Remote Community Management Services which provides management, accounting and business development services to remote Indigenous community stores in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne districts; and WA Buying Services which specialises in supply and freighting orders to remote parts of Western Australia and collating local area supplies.

The Committee will also consult with Foodbank WA, a non-denominational, charitable organisation which sources donated and surplus food from the food and grocery industry to distribute to welfare and community agencies. The organisation also has a statewide School Breakfast program, dispensing 1.5 million breakfasts per year to the the Pilbara, Kimberley and Western Desert zones.

The Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation which runs a store for a small community located 200 kilometres north of Broome on the Dampier Peninsula will speak with the Committee and the EON Foundation will discuss their success with the EON Edible Garden projects in communities in the Kimberley region, one of which is in Djarindjin.

Health nutritionists from the Kimberley Population Health Unit and the Nindilingarri Cultural Health Service (based in Fitzroy Crossing) will also provide evidence to the Committee. The Committee Chairman the Hon. Bob Debus MP stated:

“In its hearings in Broome, the Committee will hear from health nutritionists about the health needs and expectations of remote indigenous communities, as well as opportunities to improve food security and well being. Good nutrition is essential to Indigenous health and the Committee wants to learn what makes for a good or bad store in these remote communities.

The Committee members are thankful to the communities of Broome and the Kimberley for receiving the Committee to talk about remote community stores and how they affect the health and quality of life of remote indigenous communities.”

Public hearing: BROOME — Monday 20 July 2009, 9.00am – 5.00pm

Goolari Media Enterprises, Conference Room, 7 Blackman Street

For media comment, please contact the Chair Bob Debus MP on (02) 47824644
For programs, see the Committee website
For background information, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or atsia.reps@aph.gov.au