

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2006  
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**INDIGENOUS BUSINESS AUSTRALIA**

**Outcome 1: Stimulating the economic advancement of Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Island peoples**

**Output 1.3: Business Development and Assistance**

**Question Number: W536-07**

**Question:**

Senator Crossin asked in writing: Outback Stores Initiative - In that release of 14th August and in a subsequent Question without Notice from the Member for Solomon on 15th August, Minister Brough said that the expertise of both Woolworths and Coles will be available to offer invaluable support and technical assistance without commercial interest in the company. If they have no commercial interest then where does this lie? For example if Metcash are supplying community stores who, for any reasons subsequently are unable to pay for these supplies, who bears the loss? In what way do Woolworths and Coles provide support and technical assistance to the stores?

**Answer:**

Outback Stores, as store manager, will order and pay for goods. As goods are sold, Outback Stores recovers the cost of goods and other overheads and passes net profit to the community. As the community continues to own the store, the community is ultimately accountable for any losses. Woolworths and Coles, through participation at Board level, are providing advice on IT systems, stocking policies, shrinkage control, food handling, staff training and store fit out.