



Australian Government
Northern Territory Emergency Response Operations Centre

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Senator C. Moore
Chair
Senate Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100 Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Moore,

REPORT ON INFORMATION REQUESTED AT THE SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING OF 30 APR 08

In response to your requests for information at the Senate Community Affairs Committee Hearing of 30 Apr 08, I submit the following:

CA78: Food Security

POST LICENSING SURVEY: FEB / MAR 2008

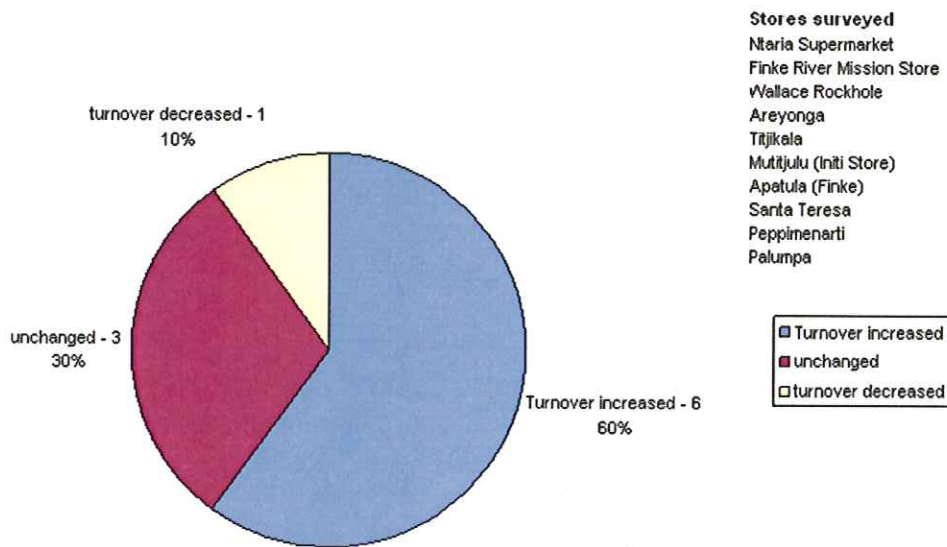
A sample of 10 Community Store Managers from both southern and northern communities were telephone interviewed by the FaHCSIA Community Stores Licensing Section in Canberra over a two week period between 18th and 29th February 2008. Income management had been in place in the respective communities for thirteen to twenty two weeks.

The following analysis is based on the managers' observations and perceptions of the situation within their communities, and does not include any examination of financial records or direct field reports. Responses to the question "Has the turnover of your store increased since the introduction of IM?" resulted in the following:

Store turnover	
Increased	6
Decreased	1
No change	3

- Two managers enthusiastically commented on turnover increases of between 25 and 30%.
- Four managers thought their turnover had increased somewhere between 10 and 15%.
- Three managers reported no discernable change, due to previous high levels of healthy food buying.
- One manager cited a decrease of 25%, owing to the distribution of Centrelink food cards for Coles and Woolworths, and consequently taking custom from the community store.

Store Manager's Perception of Change In turnover



CA84: Breakdown of Health Referrals

- 66.4% of children have received one or more referrals as a result of the CHC
- 31.5% of children have been referred for dental care
- 37.8% of children have been referred for further primary health care
- 11.9% of children have been referred to a paediatrician
- 8.2% of children have been referred for specialist Ear, Nose and Throat Services.

These figures are based on an analysis of 7,433 CHC forms by AIHW.

CA85: Safe Houses

The Safe Houses being rolled out may also be contaminated. As at 30 April, four had been installed in communities, but they have never been occupied. Testing is being undertaken to ensure that there is no risk posed before the existing and proposed Safe Houses are opened/occupied. Testing is being undertaken of all containers that were to be used as Safe Houses to assess the levels of formaldehyde and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in these containers and determine if there are any risks to human health from the chemicals identified in these tests. These Safe Houses constructed using containers will not be occupied unless it is determined that it is safe to do so

I note that the Committee Secretary requested corrections to Hansard which have been provided under a separate letter to the Committee Secretary.

Yours sincerely

Dave Chalmers AO, CSC
Major General
Operational Commander NTER Task Force

27 May 2008