

## Submission to Senate Select Committee on Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities

I draw attention to data supplied in confidence by nutritionists in NT, noting the cost of the basket of staple foods in Outback stores compared with other stores.

<b>Market basket food price survey, Central Australian Remote Community Stores, 2009</b>						
	<b>Imanpa Outback store</b>	<b>Titjikala Outback store</b>	<b>Willowra Outback store</b>	<b>Yuendumu Outback store</b>	<b>Nyirripi Outback store</b>	<b>Mean Outback stores</b>
Bread and cereals	\$93.00	\$95.00	\$94.00	\$95.00	\$96.00	\$94.60
Fruit	\$133.00	\$149.00	\$152.00	\$160.00	\$165.00	\$151.80
Vegetables	\$140.00	\$166.00	\$151.00	\$137.00	\$121.00	\$143.00
Meat and alternatives	\$99.00	\$104.00	\$105.00	\$112.00	\$103.00	\$104.60
Dairy foods	\$131.00	\$126.00	\$158.00	\$158.00	\$181.00	\$150.80
Margarine and sugar	\$51.00	\$34.00	\$35.00	\$37.00	\$33.00	\$38.00
Total family food basket	\$646.00	\$674.00	\$694.00	\$699.00	\$699.00	\$682.40

	<b>Ntaria supermarket</b>	<b>Yuendumu mining store</b>	<b>Yuendumu social club</b>	<b>Mean community stores</b>
Bread and cereals	\$95.00	\$101.00	\$104.00	\$100.00
Fruit	\$110.00	\$129.00	\$158.00	\$132.33
Vegetables	\$114.00	\$123.00	\$118.00	\$118.33
Meat and alternatives	\$96.00	\$99.00	\$98.00	\$97.67
Dairy foods	\$87.00	\$113.00	\$109.00	\$103.00
Margarine and sugar	\$28.00	\$21.00	\$29.00	\$26.00
Total family food basket	\$530.00	\$587.00	\$616.00	\$577.67

From this data it appears that Outback Stores are not competitive in price with other stores in similar settings. Mean total food basket prices are 18% higher in the Outback stores.

I note the efforts of Outback Stores to be both commercially successful and have reliable supplies of healthy, affordable food.

It may be appropriate to undertake formal cost-effectiveness analyses of subsidisation of particular foods based on projected reductions in cost of managing disease outcomes. Alternatively there is a view that affordable food is a human right that Australian tax-payers should subsidise for people in remote communities.

Furthermore, while in principle I support Outback Stores in both philosophy and practice, it is important that they work in a framework of community development, rather than appear to take control from other stores in Communities.

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