

Media Release

5/11/2018

Record Indigenous employment and healthy choices in community stores

A record of more than 400 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI) were employed across 38 remote community stores managed by Outback Stores in the 2017–18 financial year.

The figure equates to 85% of all employees in stores identifying as ATSI and is the highest number since Outback Stores was established in 2006.

Outback Stores Chief Operating Officer Evan Ralph said real employment opportunities at stores in remote communities across the Northern Territory, Western and South Australia had profound benefits for the local Indigenous people.

“We have been working really hard on engaging more people with work,” Mr Ralph said. “Earning an income, learning new skills and making a positive contribution to the community are all really important.

“We are also seeing more talented young people in communities wanting to pursue a career in retail and with the future goal of becoming a Store Manager.”

Outback Stores’ strong focus on working with communities to improve health and nutrition outcomes saw some fantastic results this year.

A total of 7.6 tonnes of sugar – the equivalent of eight Land Cruiser ute loads – was removed from the diets of customers compared to the previous year with customers buying less sugary drinks and choosing the healthier water and diet options.

An extra 24 tonnes of fresh fruit and vegetables were sold on the previous year.

Chief Executive Officer Michael Borg said both results represent Outback Stores’ commitment to making healthier choices easier in remote community stores.

“We are seeing great results from communities where store directors are developing, implementing and leading healthy strategies with our support,” Mr Borg said.

“The key for Outback Stores is to continue providing education to the community on making healthy choices and empowering directors to make good decisions.”

Outback Stores operates on not-for profit principles and aims make a positive difference in the health, employment and economy of remote Indigenous communities, by providing quality, sustainable retail stores. More information can be found in Outback Stores 2017–18 annual report - <https://outbackstores.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/OS-Annual-Report-18-fa-web-spread.pdf>

Photo - Glen Wurraramara from the Nguru Walalja store in Yuendumu stocking up fresh produce for the community.

Contact

Adam Wells, Media Manager – 0437507584

Adam.Wells@OutbackStores.com.au