

8/12/2020

Food pricing and security recommendations welcomed

Outback Stores welcomes the findings of the inquiry into food pricing and food security in remote Indigenous communities, which were released yesterday.

The report by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs found that, the high price of food and groceries in remote communities is reflective of the additional costs involved in operating stores in remote communities.

It found that there is no common or systemic price-gouging and attributed higher prices to fragile and more costly supply chains, a lack of purchasing power and higher operating costs.

The report makes several recommendations about better governance training for remote stores committees and managers, an area that is a key aspect of the Outback Stores operating model.

The Committee also recommended that the Food Security Working Group that was established during the COVID-19 pandemic be maintained and tasked with additional responsibilities into the future.

“Food security is a critical service for remote communities, who often have no option but to rely on their local store,” said Outback Stores CEO Michael Borg.

“During the peak impact of COVID-19 was fantastic to see the group come together and collaborate on prioritising remote stores and keeping food security strong.”

“We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Food Security Working Group and Key Stakeholders to further improve the affordability, availability and quality of nutritious foods to remote communities,” said Mr. Borg.

The report made several other valuable recommendations. For a balanced account of the inquiry’s findings, go to

https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/House_of_Representatives/About_the_House_News/Media_Releases/Indigenous_Affairs_Committee_tables_its_report_on_food_pricing

Media Contact

Adam Wells, Media Manager – 0437507584
Adam.Wells@OutbackStores.com.au