

RIG News #3 November 2009

JUST RELEASED!!

EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Stores

Great news for everyone working to support local food production in remote communities - the House of Representatives, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Committee yesterday released their report into food stores in remote communities.

See the summary of recommendations below, and the links below for further information and the full report (see especially, Chap 4).

A comprehensive range of measures are recommended - including recommendations to support local food production, and to encourage food stores to play a key role to support local communities to produce, market and distribute fresh, locally produced food.

A PRESS EVENT to launch the report will be held today at 12:15 online - go to the House of Representatives link if you are interested in viewing/streaming online. <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/eventdetails.aspx?eventid=1399966>

Share your thoughts about what you think of the report and its recommendations, on the RIG Network forums page at www.remoteindigenousgardens.net. What actions would you like to see prioritised?

Thanks to everyone who contributed input for the submission about Rec 64 - A Healthier Future for All Australians. We have made a submission to Minister Snowdon's Office and the Health Reform Taskforce and will keep you posted of further developments and feedback.

EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Stores:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/atsia/communitystores/report/Pamphelt.pdf>

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/atsia/communitystores/report/Everybody's%20Business%20Report.pdf> (full version)

Findings and Recommendations

The remote community store has the potential to play a pivotal role in improving the social, economic and health outcomes of remote Indigenous communities. The Committee made 33 recommendations overall in key areas such as health and nutrition, food access and supply, cost of living, regulating governance, licensing of stores, and the future role of Outback Stores.

Recommendations include:

- ↩ developing a healthy store policy for every remote Indigenous community store,
- ↩ establishing a national remote Indigenous food supply chain coordination office,
- ↩ establishing a remote community store infrastructure fund,
- ↩ **supporting community garden, traditional foods and farming projects,**
- ↩ commissioning a regional cost of living study for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in remote communities,
- ↩ the registration of stores under the *Corporations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2006*,
- ↩ revising the purpose of the Outback Stores model to recognise the two distinct roles— as a commercially viable store operator and ensuring food deliveries (where the store is not viable or the regular supply of healthy food is not secured), and
- ↩ working with individual communities to develop and support a diversity of good store operations or delivery models that recognise the unique needs and situations of those communities.

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