Northern Territory Government

Nutrition and Physical Activity

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Market Basket Survey 2011

www.healthynt.nt.gov.au

healthy Territory
A Territory Government initiative

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the many people who have assisted in the production of this report, including:

- store managers
- managers of supermarkets and local corner stores
- nutrition teams
- community members

Printed by the Government Printer of the Northern Territory, 2011.

An electronic version is available at:
http://health.nt.gov.au/Nutrition_and_Physical_Activity/Publications/index.aspx

General enquiries about this publication should be directed to:

Director, Health Development
Department of Health
PO Box 40596, Casuarina, NT 0811

Table of Contents

Executive summary

- The 2011 Market Basket Survey (MBS) is the twelfth annual survey of remote stores in the Northern Territory (NT).
- Seventy-three rural and remote stores in the NT were surveyed between April and June 2011; a supermarket and corner store in the major town/city in each of the district centres was also surveyed to allow comparison of prices.
- A standard food basket was priced in each of the stores. This basket is sufficient to provide foods for a hypothetical family of 6 for a fortnight.
- In addition to price, information was also collected on availability and variety of selected food items, quality of fresh fruit and vegetables, store ownership, employment characteristics and other store management practices.
- The average cost of the food basket was $815 in remote stores, $761 in district centre corner stores and $614 in district centre supermarkets.
- East Arnhem was the most expensive district ($849) and Katherine the least expensive district ($797).
- On average, the food basket in remote stores was 45% more expensive than in the Darwin supermarket, and 28% more expensive than in the Darwin corner store.
- Compared to 2010, the average cost of the food basket increased by 12% in remote stores and 19% in district centre supermarkets.
- The percentage of family income required to purchase the food basket was 26% in a Darwin supermarket. This was a small increase from the 2010 survey, where the percentage of income was 25%.
- The proportion of family income required to purchase the food basket was 38% in remote stores. This was an increase from the 2010 survey, where the proportion of income was 36%.
- 66% of people employed in remote community stores were Indigenous.
- The average number of fresh fruit varieties available in remote stores was 9; this is less than in 2010 when an average of 10 varieties were available.
- The average number of fresh vegetable varieties available in remote stores was 17; this is same number of varieties as in 2009 and is the highest number of varieties available in any of the years surveyed.
- The percentage of fresh fruit and vegetables that were rated to be of ‘good’ quality has increased gradually from 66% in 2000. In 2011, 91% of fresh fruits and 89% of fresh vegetables were rated to be of ‘good’ quality.
- On average 94% of items in the food basket were available, or usually available, in the remote stores surveyed.

1. Background

The food supply in remote communities has changed significantly in recent years with community members having access to various sources, such as takeaways and private vendors, school canteens and nutrition programs, and aged care programs. Despite these developments the community store remains a major contributor to the food supply in remote communities.[1] Community stores are therefore key players in the health of Indigenous people living in remote areas.

In 1995 the Northern Territory (NT) Department of Health and Community Services developed the NT Food and Nutrition Policy. One of the strategies identified in this policy was to develop a tool to monitor food cost, availability, variety and quality in remote community stores. The tool developed was the Market Basket Survey (MBS) and the first Territory wide survey of remote stores was carried out in 1998 when 45 stores were surveyed.[2]

The MBS includes a 'food basket' that consists of foods that meet the average energy and recommended nutrient needs of a hypothetical family of 6 people for a fortnight. The family was chosen to represent a cross-section of people who had important nutrient requirements because of their age and sex. The family consists of:

- a grandmother aged 60 years,
- a man aged 35 years,
- a woman aged 33 years,
- a male aged 14 years,
- a girl aged 8 years, and
- a boy aged 4 years.

The foods that make up the basket to feed this family are shown in Appendix A. Model C from the Core Food Groups[3] was used to determine the quantities of each food required to provide 100% of the family's nutrient requirements and 95% of the family's energy requirements for a fortnight.

The actual selection of brands and sizes was made in consultation with the leading grocery suppliers in the NT and with input from nutritionists regarding their observations in communities. The most commonly sold items were the ones included in the food basket.

The MBS also enables information to be collected on: store management, employment of Indigenous people, existence of a store nutrition policy, community development initiatives by the store, such as sponsorship and donations, nutrition promotions and store worker training.

As part of the survey, a major supermarket and corner store in each of the district centres are also surveyed for comparison of prices. The corner store is a small suburban supermarket that provides a benchmark store with a similar buying power to the remote stores.

The income for the hypothetical family was determined by obtaining Centrelink and Family Assistance figures from the Centrelink website. Details of the family's income are shown in Appendix B.

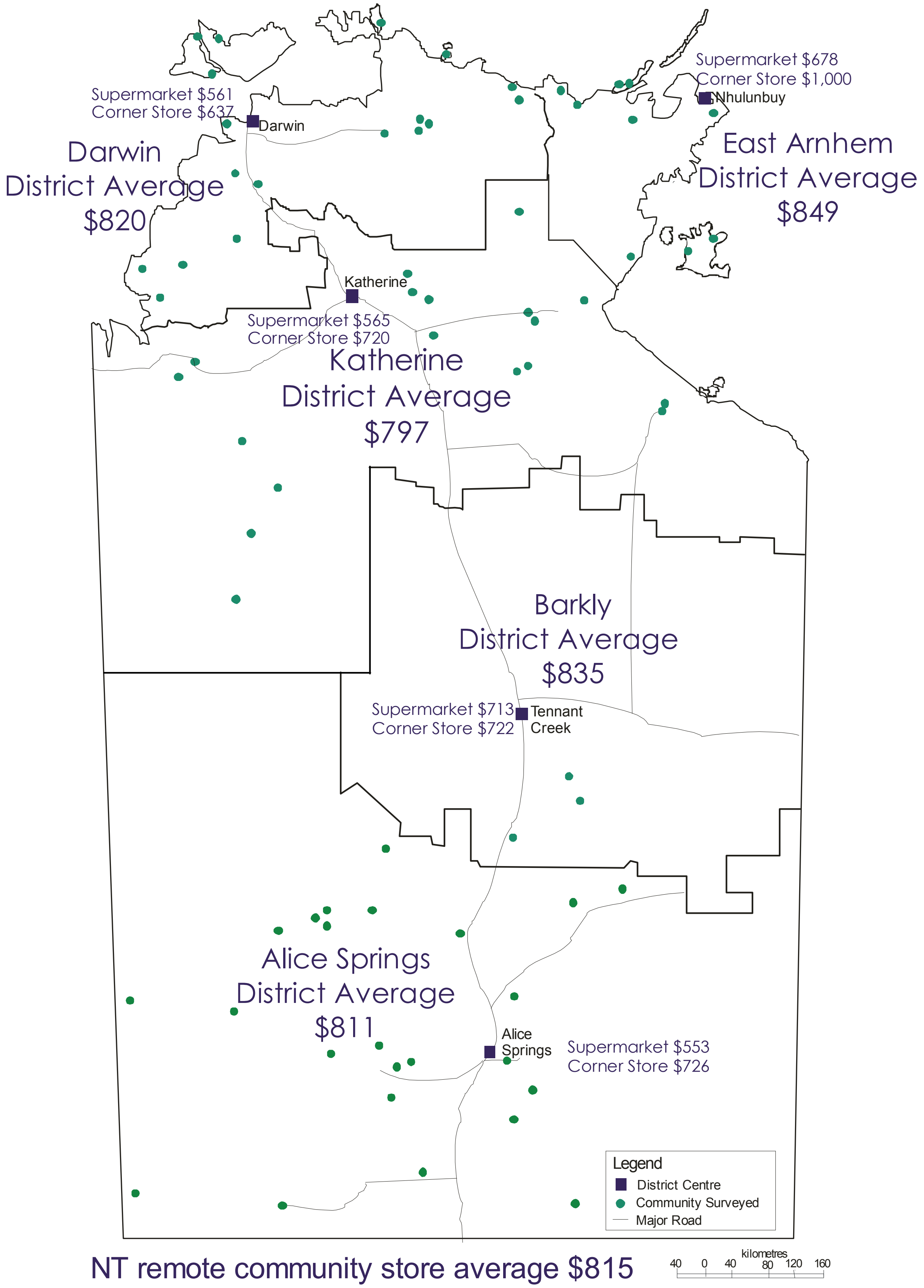


Figure 1: Location of stores surveyed and cost of food basket in each district

2. *Results*

2.1. 2011 survey

Store characteristics

Seventy-three remote stores were surveyed between April and June 2011. Figure 1 illustrates the locations of the stores surveyed and the average cost of the food basket in each district.

Table 1: Ownership/Management characteristics by district, remote stores, 2011

	Alice Springs Remote	Barkly Remote	Darwin Remote	East Arnhem Remote	Katherine Remote	Total Remote Stores
Ownership*						
Owned and managed by community or Indigenous corporation	15	1	9	0	3	28
Privately owned	1	0	5	0	2	8
Owned by store group (e.g. ALPA)	0	0	1	4	0	5
Managed by store group (e.g. Outback Stores, ALPA)	8	2	4	3	12	29
Leased from community	0	0	0	1	1	2
Other	0	0	0	1	0	1
Management characteristics						
Store committee#	22	3	10	8	15	58
Nutrition policy#	11	3	7	8	13	42
Number of stores	**24**	**3**	**19**	**9**	**18**	**73**

- 38% (28) of stores surveyed were owned and managed by the community or a local Indigenous corporation.
- 40% (29) of stores were owned by the community and managed by a store group [e.g. Arnhem Land Progress Association (ALPA) and Outback Stores].
- 79% (58) of stores surveyed had a store committee#.
- 58% (42) of stores stated that they had a nutrition policy#.

Table 2: Employment characteristics by district, remote stores, 2011

	Alice Springs Remote	**Barkly Remote**	**Darwin Remote**	**East Arnhem Remote**	**Katherine Remote**	**All Remote Stores**
Stores with Indigenous employees	23	3	15	9	14	64
Number of Indigenous employees	94	12	137	157	87	487
Total employees	165	18	214	207	135	739
Per cent Indigenous employees	57%	67%	64%	76%	64%	66%
Number of stores	**24**	**3**	**19**	**9**	**18**	**73**

- 66% of employees in the remote stores surveyed were Indigenous.
- The proportion of Indigenous employees was greatest in East Arnhem stores where Indigenous people made up 76% of the workforce in stores.

Store Managers were asked about ownership of the store, and if they had a Nutrition Policy, and/or Store Committee. At the time the surveys were undertaken it was not stipulated what constituted a ‘policy’, a ‘committee’, or exactly how ‘ownership’ was to be defined.

Table 3: Employment characteristics by store ownership and management, remote stores, 2011

	Owned and managed by community or Indigenous corporation	**Privately owned**	**Owned by store group (eg ALPA)**	**Managed by store group (e.g. Outback Stores, ALPA)**	**Leased from community**	**Other**
Stores with Indigenous employees	26	4	5	26	2	1
Number of Indigenous employees	139	17	136	190	3	2
Total employees	229	61	159	261	13	16
Per cent Indigenous employees	61%	28%	86%	73%	23%	12%
Number of stores	**28**	**8**	**5**	**29**	**2**	**1**

- 78% of employees were Indigenous in stores managed or owned by a store group (e.g. ALPA and Outback Stores) compared with 50% in other stores.

Variety and quality of fruit and vegetables

In this survey, variety is defined as a type of fruit or vegetable (e.g. apple or capsicum). If different options are found (e.g. red and green capsicum) they would only be counted as one variety.

Table 4: Number of varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables by district, remote stores, 2011

	Alice Springs Remote	Barkly Remote	Darwin Remote	East Arnhem Remote	Katherine Remote	All Remote Stores
Average number of fresh fruit varieties	8	10	11	11	9	9
Range	3 - 14	9 - 11	1 - 22	7 - 13	4-13	1 – 22
Average number of fresh vegetable varieties	15	18	20	17	15	17
Range	7 - 21	18 - 19	4 - 34	6 - 24	5 - 21	4 – 34
Number of stores	**24**	**3**	**19**	**9**	**18**	**73**

- On average there were 9 different varieties of fresh fruit and 17 different varieties of fresh vegetables in remote stores.
- Information was not collected on the quantities of fruit and vegetables available.
- All stores had at least one variety of fresh fruit and vegetables available on the day of survey.

Table 5: Quality# of fresh fruit by district, remote stores, 2011

	Alice Springs Remote	Barkly Remote	Darwin Remote	East Arnhem Remote	Katherine Remote	All Remote Stores
Good	84%	100%	95%	93%	90%	91%
Fair	15%	-	4%	7%	6%	8%
Poor	1%	-	1%	-	4%	1%
Rotten	1%	-	-	-	-	<1%

Table 6: Quality# of fresh vegetables by district, remote stores, 2011

	Alice Springs Remote	Barkly Remote	Darwin Remote	East Arnhem Remote	Katherine Remote	All Remote Stores
Good	91%	91%	90%	84%	88%	89%
Fair	9%	7%	10%	15%	11%	10%
Poor	<1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Rotten	-	-	-	-	1%	<1%

- Overall, 91% of fresh fruit and 89% of fresh vegetables were rated to be of ‘good’ quality on the day of survey.
- Barkly remote stores (3 stores) had the highest proportion of ‘good’ fresh fruit on the day of survey.
- Alice Springs and Barkly remote stores had the highest proportion of ‘good’ fresh vegetables on the day of survey.

Rating quality of fresh food is difficult and very much dependent on the opinion of those undertaking the survey. Descriptive tables were included on the survey sheets to help reduce the variance amongst those undertaking the survey.

Food basket costs

In order to compare the cost of the food basket between stores, it is sometimes necessary to establish a price for items that are not in stock on the day of the survey, or that are not carried by the store. If the item is not in stock, its usual price is used. If the item is not carried by the store, the average price of that item in other remote stores in the same district is used instead.

Table 7: Usual availability of food basket items by district, remote stores, 2011

	Alice Springs Remote	**Barkly Remote**	**Darwin Remote**	**East Arnhem Remote**	**Katherine Remote**	**All Remote Stores**
Average availability of prices of items in food basket	94%	94%	93%	97%	92%	94%
Range	50 - 100%	90 - 97%	73 - 100%	83 - 100%	80 - 100%	50 - 100%
Number of stores with 100% of items	7	0	5	6	1	19
Number of stores	**24**	**3**	**19**	**9**	**18**	**73**

- On average 94% of items were available, or usually available in remote stores.
- 22% (16) of the 73 remote stores surveyed had, or usually had, all the items available in their store.

Table 8: Average cost of food basket by district, remote stores, 2011

	Alice Springs Remote	**Barkly Remote**	**Darwin Remote**	**East Arnhem Remote**	**Katherine Remote**	**Remote Store Average**
Bread & cereals	$106	$102	$115	$118	$110	$111
Fruit	$249	$290	$237	$224	$215	$236
Vegetables	$156	$140	$162	$162	$169	$161
Meat & alternative	$118	$119	$115	$129	$122	$120
Dairy	$147	$154	$153	$177	$143	$151
Other foods	$36	$30	$37	$39	$38	$37
Total basket	**$811#**	**$835**	**$820#**	**$849**	**$797**	**$815#**
Number of stores	**24**	**3**	**19**	**9**	**18**	**73**

- The average cost of the food basket ranged from $797 in the Katherine remote stores to $849 in East Arnhem remote stores.
- The average cost of the food basket in all remote stores surveyed was $815.

#Due to rounding of numbers the sum of food groups does not equal the total basket cost in some instances in Table 6.

Table 9: Cost of food basket by district, supermarkets and corner stores, 2011

	Alice Springs	Barkly	Darwin	East Arnhem	Katherine	NT Average#
Bread & cereals						
Supermarket	$64	$92	$65	$104	$66	**$78**
Corner store	$115	$92	$86	$141	$102	**$107**
Fruit						
Supermarket	$189	$248	$159	$208	$170	**$195**
Corner store	$211	$267	$164	$277	$198	**$224**
Vegetables						
Supermarket	$103	$101	$121	$134	$136	**$119**
Corner store	$123	$118	$125	$172	$151	**$138**
Meat & alternative						
Supermarket	$83	$92	$84	$94	$92	**$89**
Corner store	$97	$99	$92	$149	$92	**$106**
Dairy						
Supermarket	$94	$153	$113	$111	$78	**$110**
Corner store	$152	$124	$139	$217	$148	**$156**
Other foods						
Supermarket	$20	$28	$19	$27	$23	**$23**
Corner store	$27	$21	$32	$43	$29	**$31**
Total basket						
Supermarket	**$553**	**$713#**	**$561**	**$678**	**$565**	**$614**
Corner store	**$726#**	**$722#**	**$637#**	**$1000#**	**$720**	**$761#**

Supermarket

- The average cost of the basket in the supermarkets was $614.
- Barkly had the most expensive supermarket food basket ($713) and Alice Springs had the cheapest ($553).

Corner store

- The average cost of the basket in the corner stores was 24% higher in the corner stores than the district centre supermarkets ($761 compared to $614).
- East Arnhem had the most expensive corner store food basket ($1000) and Darwin had the cheapest ($637).

Due to rounding of numbers the sum of food groups does not equal the total basket cost in some instances in Table 8.

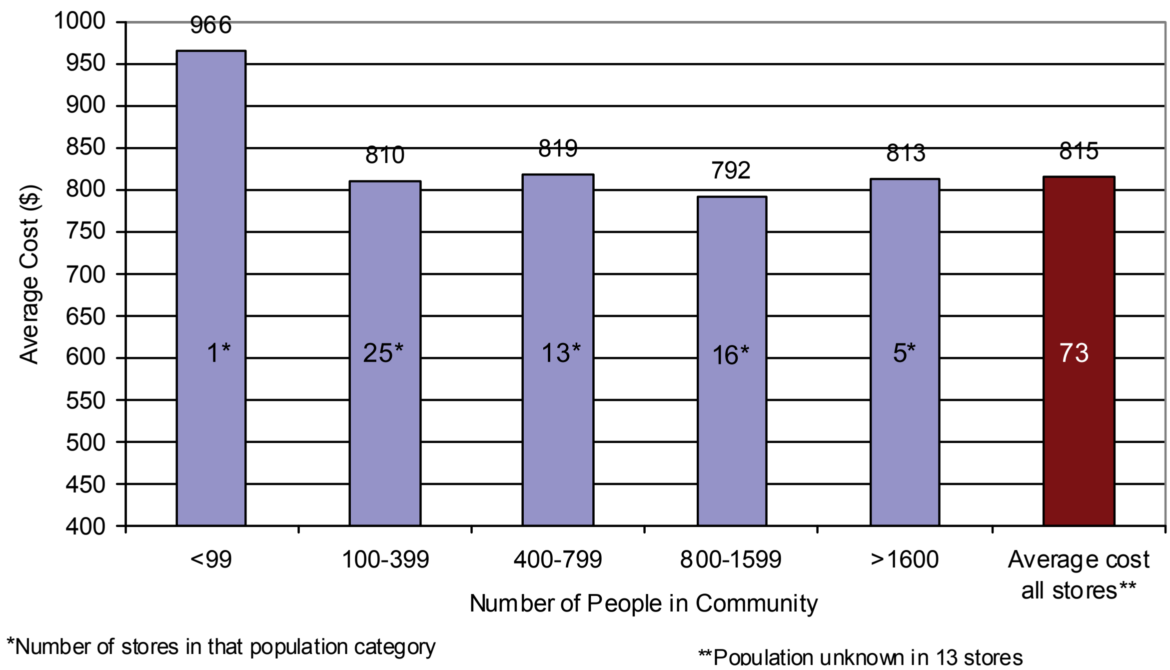
Table 10: Variation in the cost of the food basket in remote stores from a Darwin supermarket and corner store by district, 2011

	Alice Springs Remote	**Barkly Remote***	**Darwin Remote**	**East Arnhem Remote**	**Katherine Remote**	**Average-NT Remote Stores**
Bread & cereals						
Supermarket	63%	56%	77%	82%	69%	**70%**
Corner store	24%	18%	34%	38%	28%	**29%**
Fruit						
Supermarket	57%	83%	49%	41%	36%	**49%**
Corner store	52%	77%	44%	37%	31%	**44%**
Vegetables						
Supermarket	29%	16%	34%	34%	40%	**33%**
Corner store	25%	12%	30%	30%	35%	**29%**
Meat & alternative						
Supermarket	41%	42%	37%	54%	45%	**43%**
Corner store	28%	29%	25%	40%	32%	**30%**
Dairy						
Supermarket	29%	36%	35%	56%	26%	**34%**
Corner store	6%	11%	10%	27%	3%	**9%**
Other foods						
Supermarket	86%	57%	95%	103%	100%	**92%**
Corner store	12%	-5%	18%	23%	21%	**17%**
Total basket						
Supermarket	**45%**	**49%**	**46%**	**51%**	**42%**	**45%**
Corner Store	**27%**	**31%**	**29%**	**33%**	**25%**	**28%**

- The cost of the food basket was 45% higher in remote stores than that of the same basket of goods in a Darwin supermarket.
- The cost of the food basket was 28% higher in remote stores than that of the same basket of goods in a Darwin corner store.
- East Arnhem remote stores were the most expensive, being 51 and 33% more expensive than the Darwin supermarket and corner store, respectively.

Population

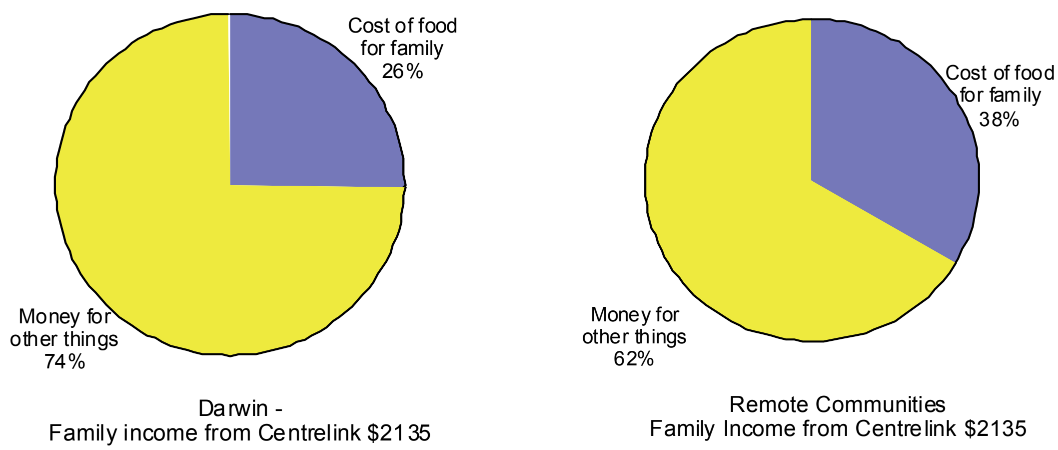
Figure 2: Average cost of the food basket by community population, 2011



Overall, there was little variation in the cost of the food basket with community size.

Relation between family income and the cost of the food basket

Figure 3: Proportion of income needed to purchase food basket, 2011



The above graphs show the proportion of income a family of 6 needs to spend on the food basket for 2 weeks. The family's income has been determined as outlined in Appendix B. For every $100 of income, a family in Darwin spends $26 on the food basket, whereas a family in a remote community will spend approximately $38 on the same basket of food.

2.2. Cost compared to 2010 survey

Table 11: Variation in the cost of the food basket groups by district, remote stores, 2010 to 2011

	Alice Springs Remote	Barkly Remote*	Darwin Remote	East Arnhem Remote	Katherine Remote	NT Average
Bread & cereals	5	-8%	4%	3%	1%	3%
Fruit	50%	81%	40%	37%	31%	43%
Vegetables	3%	-6%	0%	2%	15%	4%
Meat & alternative	6%	-12%	1%	4%	6%	3%
Dairy	4%	-3%	4%	2%	-8%	0%
Other foods	5%	-22%	9%	5%	15%	7%
Total basket	15%	11%	11%	10%	10%	12%

- Overall, the cost of the food basket increased by 12% in remote stores from 2010 to 2011.
- Alice Springs remote stores had the largest increase in the cost of the basket (15%).
- The ‘fruit’ portion of the basket had the greatest cost increase from last year (43%).

Table 12: Variation in the cost of the food basket groups by district, supermarkets, 2010 to 2011

	Alice Springs supermarket	Barkly supermarket#	Darwin supermarket	East Arnhem supermarket	Katherine supermarket	NT supermarket average
Bread & cereals	-13%	35%	-13%	39%	-7%	8%
Fruit	147%	92%	40%	46%	45%	68%
Vegetables	21%	- 4%	3%	8%	28%	11%
Meat & alternative	5%	- 15%	1%	-5%	0%	-3%
Dairy	0%	34%	15%	2%	-21%	7%
Other foods	-8%	9%	-15%	2%	4%	-1%
Total basket	**29%**	**29%**	**10%**	**18%**	**11%**	**19%**

- The cost of the food basket increased in all supermarkets from 2010 to 2011.
- The average increase in district centre supermarkets was 19%.
- The largest increase was in the Alice Springs and Barkly supermarkets (29%).
- The increase was greatest in the ‘fruit’ portion of the basket (68%).
- The ‘meat and alternative’ portion of the basket decreased by 3% and the ‘other foods’ portion decreased by 1%.

2.3. Comparison of surveys, 2000 – 2011

Store Characteristics

Figure 4: Store governance and employment characteristics, remote stores, 2000 - 2011

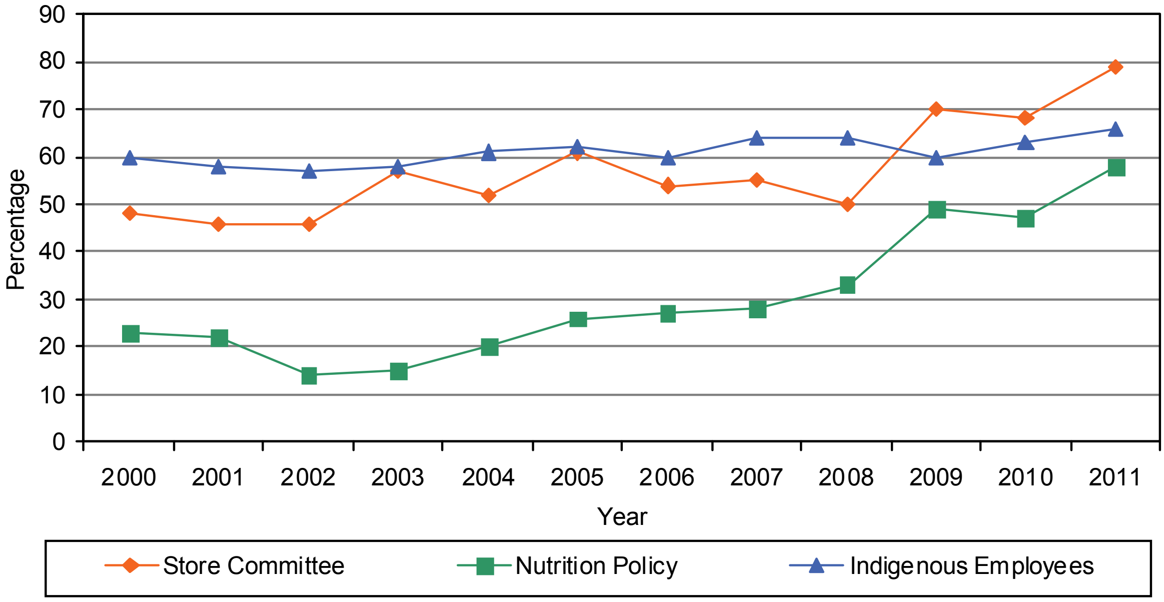


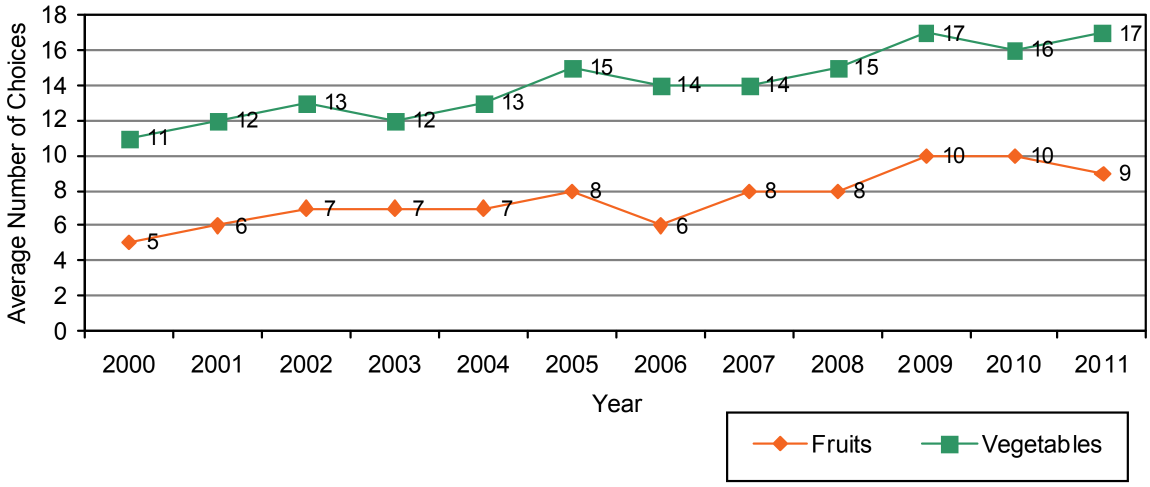
Table 13: Store governance and employment characteristics, remote stores, 2000 - 2011

Year	% with Store Committee	% with Nutrition Policy	% Indigenous employees	Number stores surveyed
2000	48%	23%	60%	56
2001	46%	22%	58%	53
2002	46%	14%	57%	70
2003	57%	15%	58%	61
2004	52%	20%	61%	60
2005	61%	26%	62%	66
2006	54%	27%	60%	74
2007	55%	28%	64%	67
2008	50%	33%	64%	66
2009	70%	49%	60%	65
2010	68%	47%	63%	76
2011	79%	58%	66%	73

- There was a marked increase in the percentage of stores with a Store Committee and Nutrition Policy in the 2009 survey. This was sustained in 2010 and 2011.
- There was little change in the percentage of Indigenous employees in remote stores between 2000 and 2011.

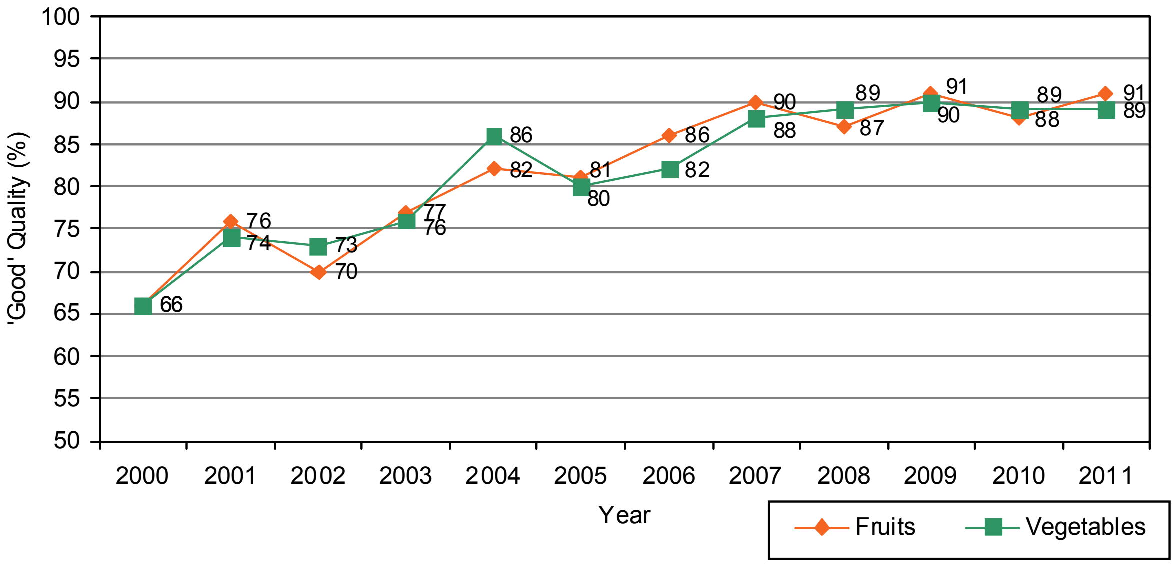
Food Variety and Quality

Figure 5: Average number of varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables, remote stores, 2000 - 2011



The average number of varieties of fresh fruit available was highest in 2009 and 2010 when there was an average of 10 varieties of fruit available. The average number of varieties of fresh vegetables available was highest in the 2009 and 2011, when there was an average of 17 varieties of vegetables available.

Figure 6: Percentage of fresh fruit and vegetables rated as ‘good’, remote stores, 2000 - 2011



The proportion of fresh fruit and vegetables that were rated to be of ‘good’ quality has increased steadily from 2000 to 2011. In 2000, 66% of fresh fruit and vegetables were rated as ‘good’. In 2011, 91% of fruits and 89% of vegetables were rated as ‘good’.

Figure 7: Average number of varieties of selected foodstuffs available, remote stores, 2000 - 2011

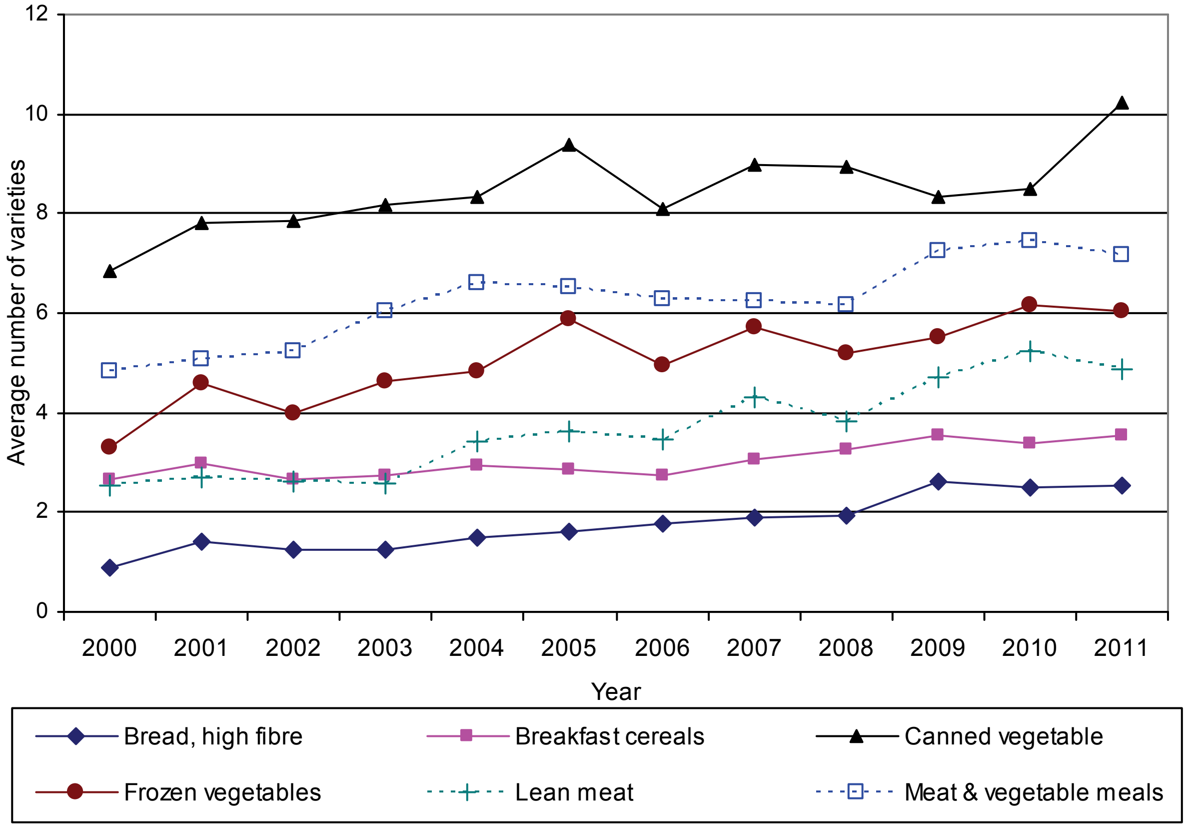


Table 14: Average number of varieties of selected foodstuffs available, remote stores, 2000 - 2011

Year	Bread, high fibre	Breakfast cereals	Canned vegetables	Frozen vegetables (not chips)	Lean meat	Meat & vegetable meals
2000	0.9	2.6	6.8	3.3	2.5	4.8
2001	1.4	3.0	7.8	4.6	2.7	5.1
2002	1.3	2.7	7.8	4.0	2.6	5.2
2003	1.2	2.7	8.2	4.6	2.6	6.0
2004	1.5	3.0	8.3	4.8	3.4	6.6
2005	1.6	2.9	9.4	5.9	3.6	6.5
2006	1.8	2.7	8.1	5.0	3.5	6.3
2007	1.9	3.1	9.0	5.7	4.3	6.2
2008	2.0	3.3	8.9	5.2	3.8	6.2
2009	2.6	3.5	8.3	5.5	4.7	7.3
2010	2.5	3.4	8.5	6.2	5.2	7.5
2011	2.6	3.6	10.2	6.1	4.9	7.2

- The average number of varieties of all the foods shown above increased in remote stores from 2000 to 2011.
- The average numbers of varieties of lean meat and frozen vegetables have nearly doubled and the number of varieties of high fibre bread has tripled from 2000 to 2011.

Price comparisons

Figure 8: Average cost of the food basket by district, remote stores, 2000 - 2011

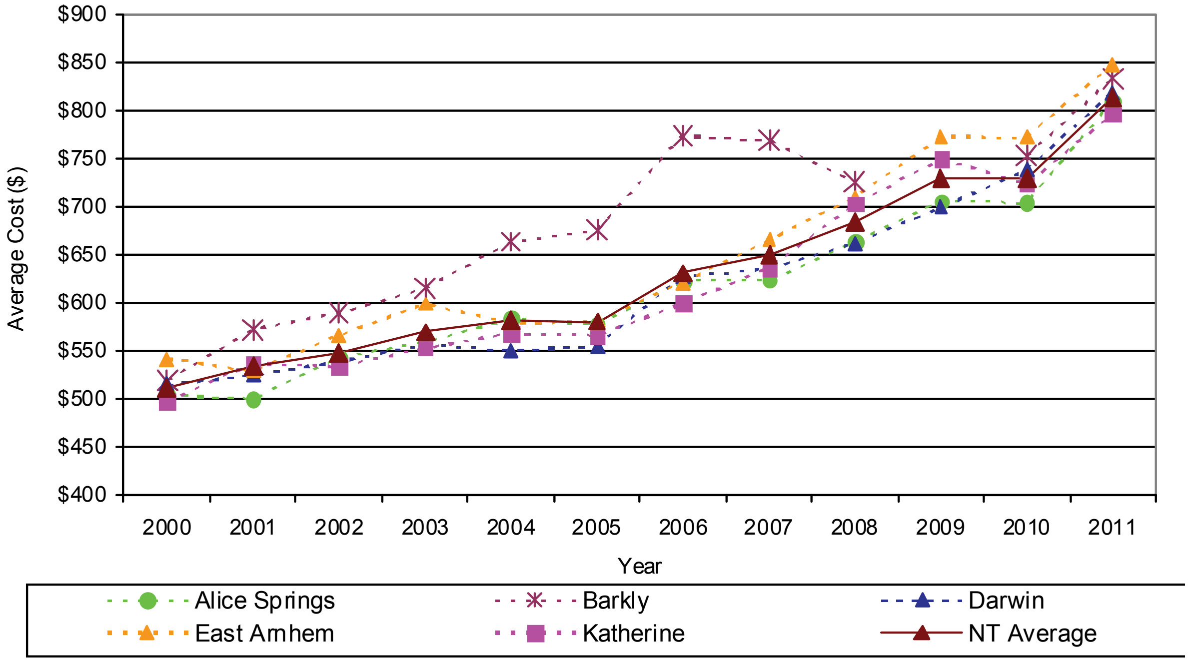


Table 15: Average cost of the food basket by district, remote stores, 2000 - 2011

Year	Alice Springs	Barkly#	Darwin	East Arnhem	Katherine	NT Average
2000*	$504	$519	$515	$542	$497	$511
2001*	$499	$572	$524	$529	$537	$534
2002*	$543	$590	$539	$567	$534	$548
2003*	$559	$615	$556	$599	$553	$570
2004*	$584	$664	$550	$579	$569	$582
2005*	$578	$676	$555	$581	$566	$580
2006*	$623	$774	$628	$621	$600	$631
2007*	$624	$770	$636	$666	$637	$651
2008*	$663	$726	$663	$710	$704	$685
2009	$706	-	$700	$773	$751	$731
2010	$705	$753	$739	$773	$724	$730
2011	$811	$835	$820	$849	$797	$815

- East Arnhem remote stores were the most expensive in 2000, and from 2009 to 2011. From 2001 through to 2008, Barkly was the most expensive district.
- The average cost of the food basket in remote stores has increased each year, except in 2005 and 2010 when there was a small decrease compared to the previous survey.
- Overall the cost of the food basket in remote stores increased by 59% ($511 to $815) between 2000 and 2011.

* A new system of data analysis was developed for the 2009 survey. This enabled a different method of dealing with costing 'missing' items; as a result some small discrepancies may be seen with previously published results for NT remote store price averages.

Only 1 store was surveyed in the Barkly district in 2009 therefore figures for this store are not displayed, the Barkly store was included in the 2009 remote store average calculations.

Figure 9: Cost of the food basket, district centre supermarkets, 2000 – 2011

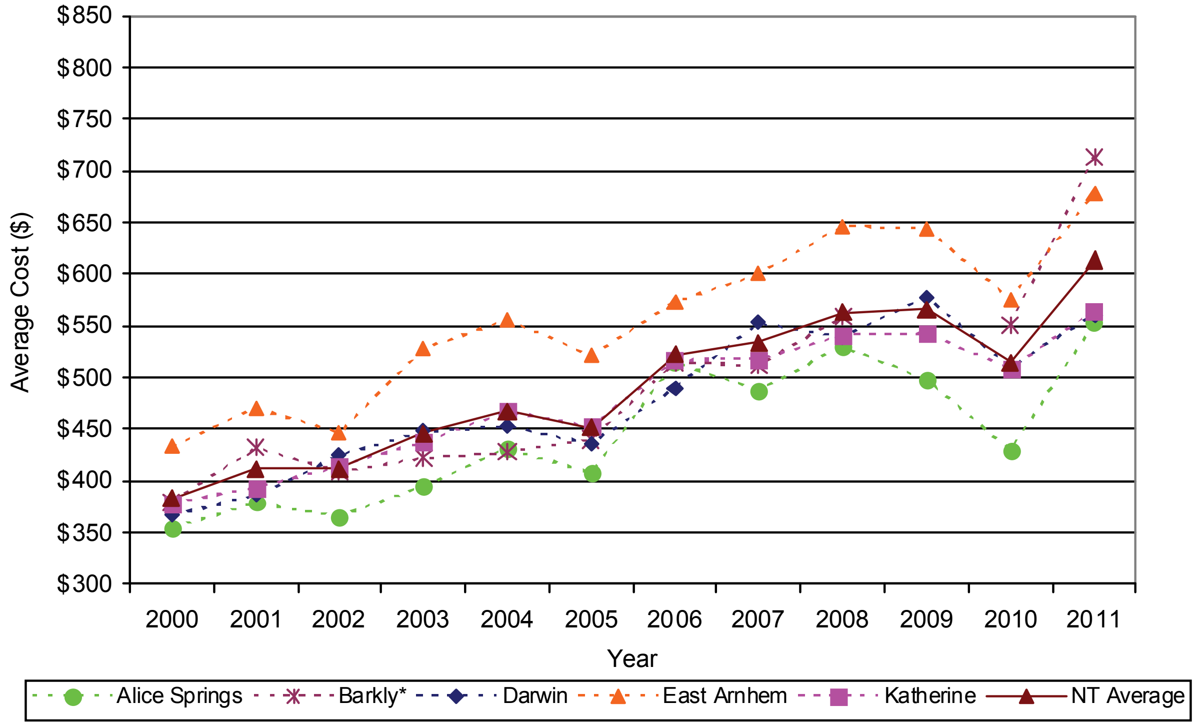


Table 16: Cost of the food basket, district centre supermarkets, 2000 - 2011

Year	Alice Springs	Barkly*	Darwin	East Arnhem	Katherine	NT Average
2000	$355	$380	$367	$433	$378	$383
2001	$379	$432	$386	$470	$394	$412
2002	$366	$409	$425	$447	$414	$412
2003	$395	$422	$448	$528	$438	$446
2004	$431	$428	$453	$556	$467	$467
2005	$408	$440	$436	$521	$453	$452
2006	$515	$515	$490	$573	$517	$522
2007	$488	$512	$553	$600	$518	$534
2008	$530	$559	$539	$647	$541	$563
2009	$498		$578	$644	$543	$566
2010	$430	$551	$510	$576	$508	$515
2011	$553	$713	$561	$678	$565	$614

- The supermarket surveyed in East Arnhem has been the most expensive supermarket each year except 2011 where Barkly had the most expensive supermarket.
- The supermarket surveyed in Alice Springs has been the cheapest each year except 2004.
- The average cost of the basket in district centre supermarkets has risen by 60% ($383 to $614) from 2000 to 2011.

- No supermarket was surveyed in the Barkly district in 2009.

Figure 10: Cost of the food basket, remote stores compared with Darwin supermarket, 2000 - 2011

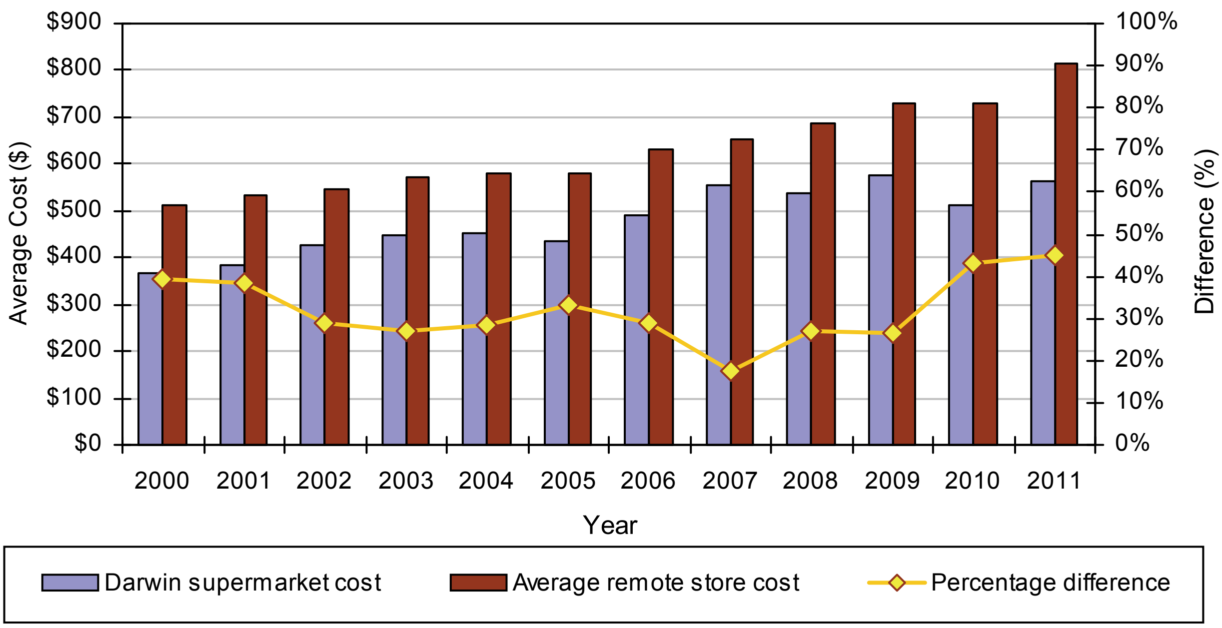


Table 17: Cost of the food basket, remote stores compared with Darwin supermarket, 2000 - 2011

Year	Darwin Supermarket	Average Community Store Price*	Per cent Difference
2000	$367	$511	39%
2001	$386	$534	38%
2002	$425	$548	29%
2003	$448	$570	27%
2004	$453	$582	28%
2005	$436	$580	33%
2006	$490	$631	29%
2007	$553	$651	18%
2008	$539	$685	27%
2009	$578	$731	27%
2010	$510	$730	43%
2011	$561	$815	45%

- The cost difference between remote stores and the Darwin supermarket was greatest in 2011 when the food basket cost 45% more in remote stores.
- The cost difference between remote stores and the Darwin supermarket was least in 2007 when the food basket cost 18% more in remote stores.

* A new system of data analysis was developed for the 2009 survey. This enabled a different method of dealing with costing 'missing' items; as a result some small discrepancies may be seen with previously published results for NT remote store price averages.

Figure 11: Proportion of income needed to purchase the food basket, remote stores compared to Darwin supermarket, 2000 - 2011

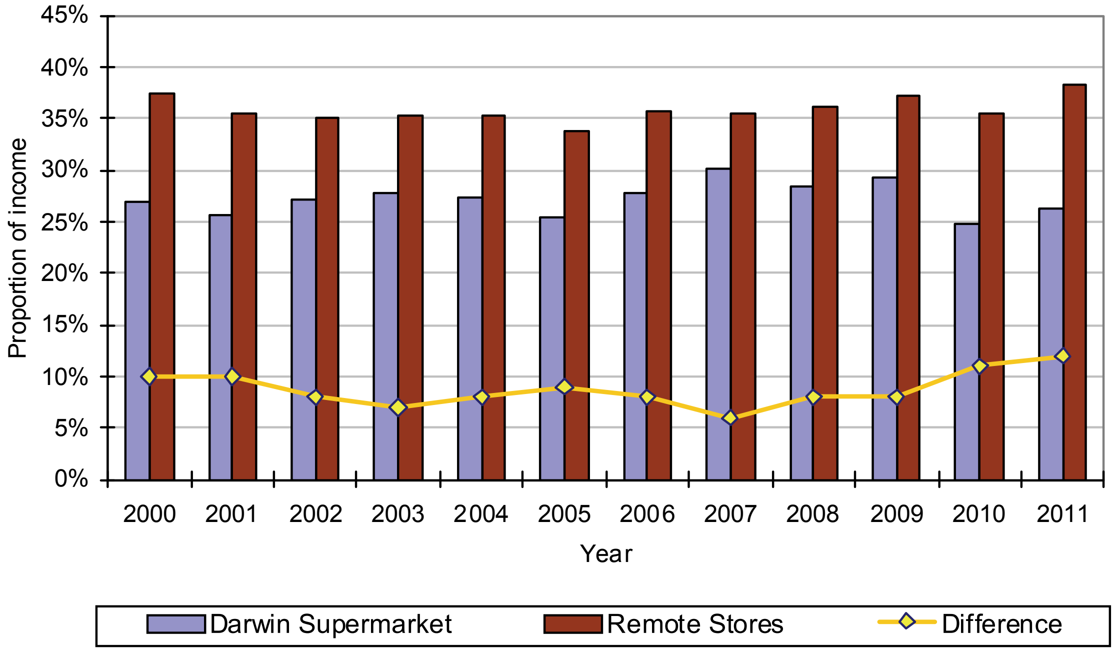


Table 18: Proportion of income needed to purchase the food basket, remote stores compared to Darwin supermarket, 2000 - 2011

Year	Proportion of income Darwin Supermarket	Proportion of income Remote Stores	Difference
2000	27%	37%	10%
2001	26%	36%	10%
2002	27%	35%	8%
2003	28%	35%	7%
2004	27%	35%	8%
2005	25%	34%	9%
2006	28%	36%	8%
2007	30%	36%	6%
2008	28%	36%	8%
2009	29%	37%	8%
2010	25%	36%	11%
2011	26%	38%	12%

- The proportion of income required to purchase the food basket from a Darwin supermarket was the lowest in 2005 and 2010 (25%) and highest in 2007 (30%).
- The proportion of income required to purchase the food basket from remote community stores was highest in 2011 (38%) and lowest in 2005 (34%).
- The difference between proportion of income required to purchase the food basket in remote stores compared to Darwin is greatest in 2011 (12%).

Figure 12: Cost of the food basket compared with projected cost of the food basket with annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases, remote stores and Darwin supermarket, 2000 - 2011

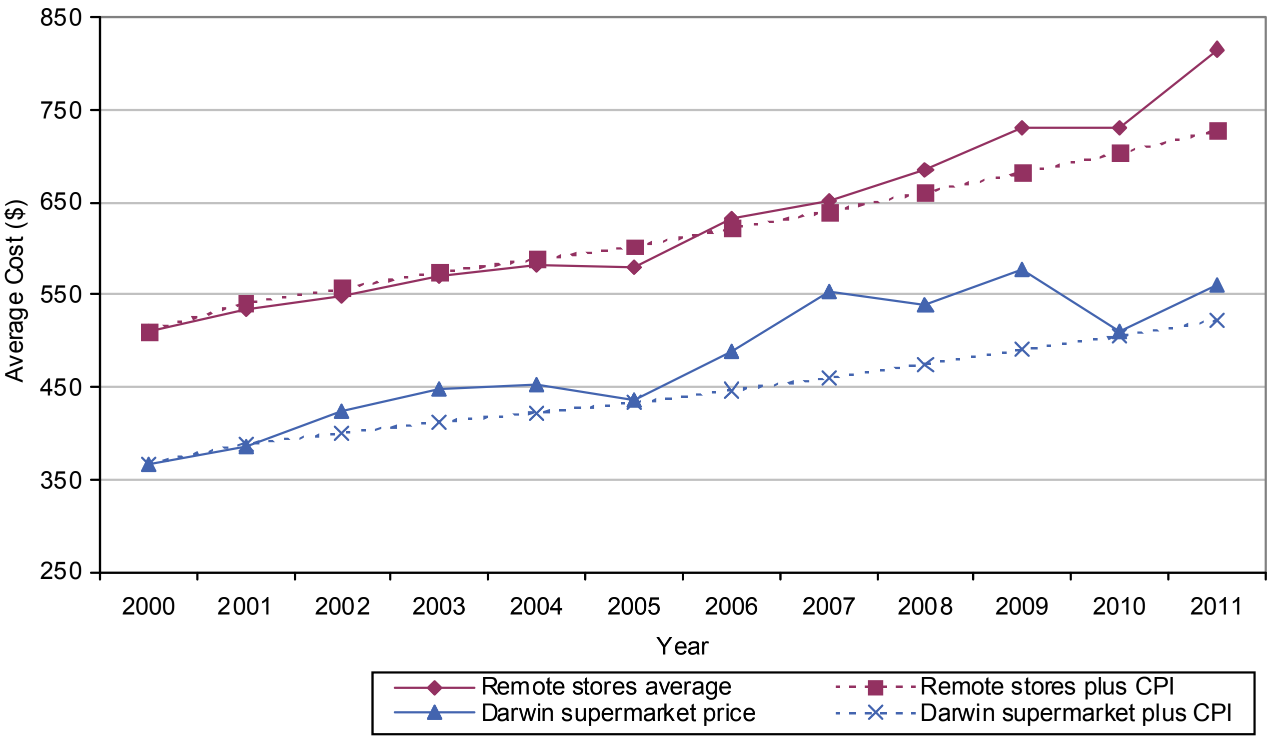


Table 19: Cost of the food basket compared with projected cost of the food basket with annual CPI increases, remote stores and Darwin supermarket, 2000 - 2011

Year	Remote Stores Average*	Remote Stores Plus CPI	Darwin Supermarket Price	Darwin Supermarket Plus CPI	Consumer Price Index
2000	$511	-	$367	-	-
2001	$534	$541	$386	$389	6.0%
2002	$548	$557	$425	$400	2.9%
2003	$570	$574	$448	$413	3.1%
2004	$582	$588	$453	$423	2.4%
2005	$580	$602	$436	$433	2.4%
2006	$631	$622	$490	$447	3.2%
2007	$651	$640	$553	$460	2.9%
2008	$685	$661	$539	$475	3.4%
2009	$731	$682	$578	$490	3.1%
2010	$730	$703	$510	$505	3.1%
2011	$815	$727	$561	$523	3.6%

- In remote stores the actual cost of the food basket is similar to the projected cost of the basket using annual CPI[4] rates from 2000 to 2008. Since 2009 the actual cost of the basket has been higher than the predicted cost.
- In the Darwin supermarket the actual cost was markedly higher than the projected CPI cost between 2006 and 2009.

* A new system of data analysis was developed for the 2009 survey. This enabled a different method of dealing with costing 'missing' items; as a result some small discrepancies may be seen with previously published results for NT remote store price averages.

Figure 13: Cost increase (in per cent) of selected store items and food basket from 2000, remote stores

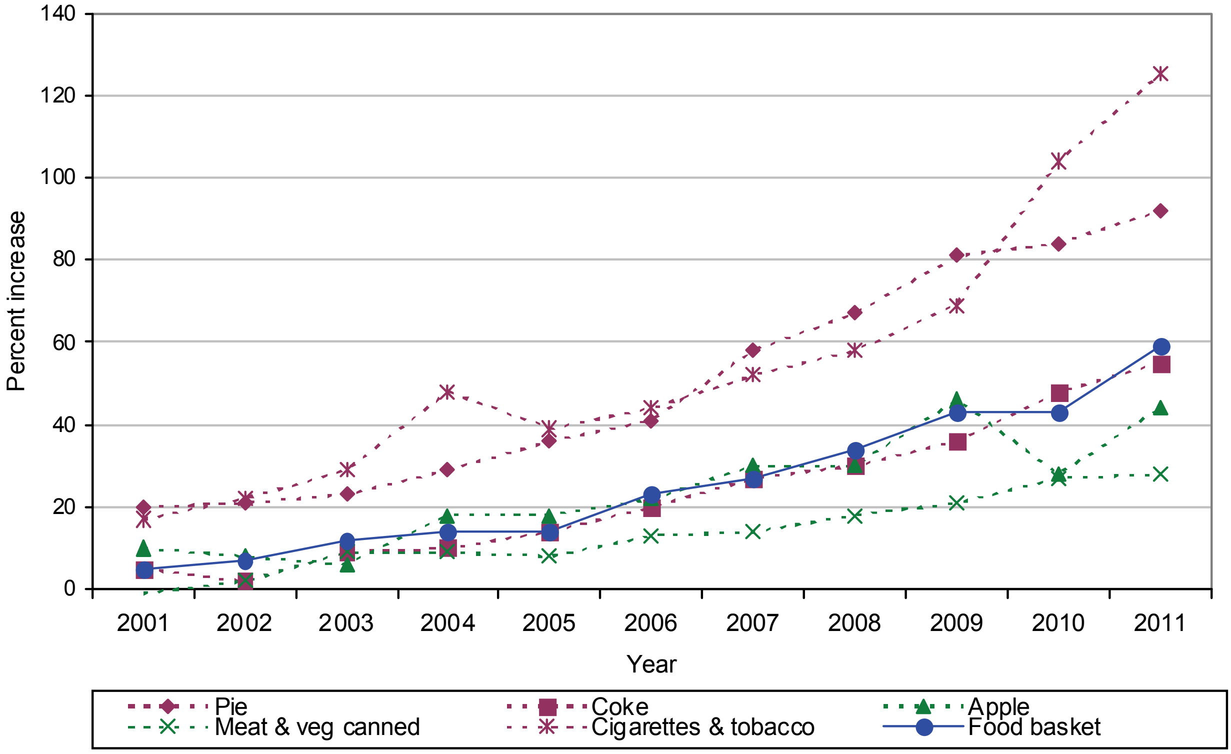


Table 20: Cost increase (in per cent) of selected store items and food basket from 2000, remote stores

Year	Pie	Coke	Apple	Meat & veg canned	Cigarettes & tobacco	Food basket
2001	20%	5%	10%	-1%	17%	5%
2002	21%	2%	8%	2%	22%	7%
2003	23%	9%	6%	9%	29%	12%
2004	29%	10%	18%	9%	48%	14%
2005	36%	14%	18%	8%	39%	14%
2006	41%	20%	22%	13%	44%	23%
2007	58%	27%	30%	14%	52%	27%
2008	67%	30%	30%	18%	58%	34%
2009	81%	36%	46%	21%	69%	43%
2010	84%	48%	28%	27%	104%	43%
2011	92%	55%	44%	28%	125%	59%

- The cost of cigarettes and tobacco has the greatest percentage increase from 2000 to 2011 (125%).
- The price of the 'healthier' meal items (meat and vegetable canned meal and apple) both increased less than the food basket from 2000 to 2011 while the pie increased noticeably more than the food basket and the coke price was similar to the increase in the food basket price.

Figure 14: Cost increase (in per cent) of food basket groups from 2000, remote stores

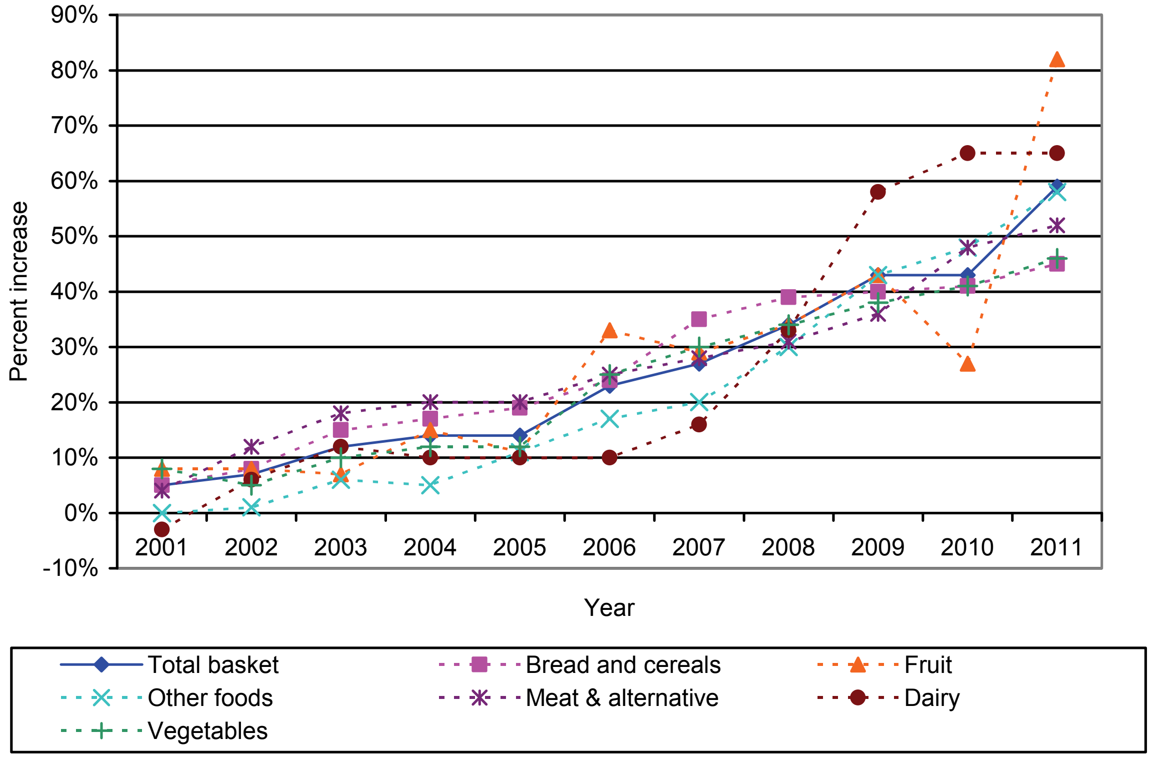


Table 21: Cost increase (in per cent) of food basket groups from 2000, remote stores

Year	Bread & cereals	Fruit	Other foods	Meat & alternative	Dairy	Vegetables	Total basket
2001	5%	8%	0%	4%	-3%	8%	5%
2002	8%	8%	1%	12%	6%	5%	7%
2003	15%	7%	6%	18%	12%	10%	12%
2004	17%	15%	5%	20%	10%	12%	14%
2005	19%	11%	11%	20%	10%	12%	14%
2006	24%	33%	17%	25%	10%	25%	23%
2007	35%	29%	20%	28%	16%	30%	27%
2008	39%	34%	30%	31%	33%	34%	34%
2009	40%	43%	43%	36%	58%	38%	43%
2010	41%	27%	48%	48%	65%	41%	43%
2011	45%	82%	58%	52%	65%	46%	59%

- The ‘meat and alternative’, ‘bread and cereals’ and ‘vegetable’ portions of the food basket all increased less than the total food basket from 2000 to 2011.
- The ‘fruit’, ‘dairy’, and ‘other foods’ portions of the basket all increased more than the total food basket from 2000 to 2011.

3. Discussion

In early 2007 the Australian Government announced the establishment of Outback Stores, a company that would manage stores on behalf of remote communities so they could become commercially viable and have reliable supplies of healthy, affordable food. Outback Stores began operating in its first store in May 2007; in this survey Outback Stores managed 20 stores.

In June 2007 the Australian Government announced the NT Emergency Response (NTER) in response to the *Little Children are Sacred* report.[5] Amongst the measures introduced in the NTER were Income Management (IM) and the licensing of remote stores by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). By September 2007, the first community store was licensed and IM had commenced in that community. There was a gradual roll out of these initiatives to other communities and in December 2010, shortly before commencement of the 2011 MBS, 91 stores were licensed.[6]

The licensing of community stores was designed to improve how stores operate and the quality of food they provide. As part of licensing conditions stores are expected to have a reasonable quality, quantity and range of groceries and consumer items, including healthy food and drinks. The introduction of IM and stores licensing, along with an increase in the number of stores managed by Outback Stores and ALPA, is therefore likely to have had an impact on some of the information monitored through this survey in since 2007.

Store characteristics

The local store is an important source of employment for people living in remote communities. The proportion of Indigenous employees in stores was greatest in the East Arnhem District (76%), where there is a large number of stores owned or managed by ALPA. ALPA and Outback Stores both have a policy of employing local Indigenous people to work in their stores. The proportion of Indigenous people employed by these organisations was greater (78%) than in other stores (50%). Note that information was not collected on the type of employment (e.g. full time, part time or casual).

There was a marked increase in the percentage of stores with a Store Committee and/or Nutrition Policy from 2009 (figure 4). It is likely that this is due to the introduction of stores licensing and/or an increase in number of stores managed by Outback Stores.

Food quality and variety

There is strong evidence to suggest that an adequate intake of fruits and vegetables is protective against diseases such as coronary heart disease, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, stroke and some cancers.[7] National surveys have shown that many Australians do not consume the recommended amounts of fruit and vegetables and the rates of people who are not meeting the recommended daily intake of fruit and vegetables is higher amongst Indigenous people than non-Indigenous people.[8;9] Furthermore, Indigenous people living in remote areas are more likely to report no usual daily intake of fruit and vegetables compared to Indigenous people living in non-remote areas.[9] For these reasons improving the availability, variety, quality and affordability of fruits and vegetables is a priority identified in both NT and national nutrition policies. Additional data regarding fruit and vegetables is therefore collected in this survey.

Whilst there are no recommendations as to the number of varieties of fruit and vegetables that should be available, the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating[10] lists 7 different 'groups' of fruits (citrus, tropical, melons, berries, grapes, stone, apples and pears) and 6 different 'groups' of vegetables (dark green, orange, cruciferous, starchy, salad and legumes). Each of these groups of fruits and vegetables provides different nutrients. A diet including fruits and vegetables from each group therefore increases the likelihood that one's diet contains the variety of nutrients required for good health.

It is encouraging to note that, since 2000, the average number of varieties of fresh fruit in remote stores has increased from 5 to 9 and the average number of fresh vegetables has increased from 11 to 17. Further analysis would be required to determine how many stores had at least one choice available from each of the 'groups' of fruit and vegetables.

The MBS has also shown an improvement in the number of varieties of other healthy foodstuffs that are available in remote stores (see figure 7) and a gradual increase in the proportion of fresh fruit and vegetables that were rated to be of 'good' quality. A number of different factors could have contributed to these improvements, such as more frequent deliveries, better storage and handling, improved store management practices.

Basket costs

A marked increase in the cost of the basket of foods was found in this survey (2011); this increase occurred in all regions and was evident in both district centre supermarkets and remote stores. The major driver of this increase was a sharp rise in the cost of the fruit portion of the basket (43% in remote stores and 68% in supermarkets), which was due largely to the high cost of bananas following the destruction of banana crops in Queensland by Cyclone Yasi in early 2011. It should be noted that the actual impact of the price of bananas on household food spending may not be as pronounced as the survey suggests, as people may choose to buy lower cost fruits in place of bananas.

The Darwin supermarket and corner store were used as the benchmark against which remote community stores are compared. The Darwin stores were chosen because the Darwin region is where the majority of Territorians live and similar surveys in other states use their capital city supermarket prices as the benchmark. The 'corner stores' (small suburban supermarkets) provide a benchmark store with a similar buying power to remote stores.

In this survey (2011) the cost of the food basket in remote stores was 45% higher than in the Darwin supermarket and 28% higher than the Darwin corner store; this differential is greater than in previous surveys (see figure 9). Compared to 2010, there was a 12% increase in the average cost of the food basket in remote stores and a 10% increase in the Darwin supermarket. It should be noted that the Darwin supermarket had the smallest increase of all supermarkets surveyed and that the average increase across all supermarkets (19%) was greater than the increase in remote stores.

In 2011, 38% of income was required to purchase the food basket in remote stores. Whilst this is higher than any the previous surveys, there has been little variation (34 to 38%) in the proportion of income required to purchase the food basket in remote stores between 2000 and 2011.

A number of items were selected for analysis to determine if the price of a 'healthier' meal (meat and vegetable canned meal and apple) had increased more or less than an 'unhealthy' meal (pie and coke) and tobacco products. Between 2000 and 2011, the price of the tobacco products increased the most (125%); a contributing factor to this price rise was an increase in the excise (tax) on tobacco products between 2009 and 2010. The cost of a pie also increased noticeably more than the food basket, while the price of coke increased at a similar rate to the food basket. By contrast, the price of the 'healthier' meal items (meat and vegetable canned meal and apple) both increased less than the family basket between 2000 and 2011.

Limitations of the survey

When interpreting the results described in the previous section, a number of issues must be considered. Firstly, a letter was sent to each store manager prior to the survey period informing them that their store would be surveyed in the coming months, and in some instances the store manager may have been informed of the exact date of survey. Prior notice may have influenced store prices and availability of foods during the survey period. Secondly, it must be remembered that although this survey measures the variety, quality and availability of some healthy food items, it makes no attempt to measure the quantities available or purchased.

The food basket contains a relatively small number of items (30). The prices of these items are then multiplied by varying amounts to provide the total cost of the food basket. Therefore significant changes in the price of 1 or 2 items may have an unduly inflated effect on the total cost of the basket. An example of this occurred in 2006, and in this survey, when banana crops in Queensland were destroyed by tropical cyclones, resulting in an increase in the price of bananas. As a result, the cost of the 'fruit' portion of the basket in NT supermarkets increased by 45% in 1996 and 68% in 2011, compared to the preceding years.

Comparisons with other surveys

The NT Treasury conducts a biannual survey of grocery prices in NT supermarkets. Consistent with results from this survey, the *Grocery Price Survey* for the June half-year 2011 found that the cost of the basket of goods increased in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine and Nhulunbuy supermarkets compared to the same period in 2010 and that, on average, Alice Springs supermarkets were the cheapest.[11] The *Grocery Price Survey* also found an increase in fruit and vegetable price to be the main driver of the increase in supermarket prices, which is again, consistent with findings from this survey.

In May 2011 FaHCSIA produced a report on the evaluation of the stores licensing program. The report concluded that, overall, stores licensing has had a positive impact on access to food that is safe and of sufficient quality and quantity to meet household needs. The report also noted that there was concern among community members about the high cost of food in remote stores.[6] Findings from this survey, which have shown an increase in the number of varieties of some foods and improvements in the quality of fresh fruit and vegetables but consistently high prices in remote stores, support findings from the FaHCSIA report.

4. Summary

Seventy-three remote stores were surveyed in the NT between April and June 2011. These surveys collected information on the cost of a basket of foods that would meet the average energy and nutrient needs of a family of 6 for a fortnight. They also collected information on the quality, variety and availability of a selection of healthy foods, and store management characteristics.

Results from the 2011 survey showed that the cost of the food basket was, on average, 45% more expensive in remote stores than in a Darwin supermarket. The proportion of income required to purchase the food basket in remote communities was 38% compared to 26% for the same basket of foods from a Darwin supermarket. The cost of the food basket increased by 12% in remote stores and 10% in the Darwin supermarket between 2010 and 2011. The high cost of bananas was a significant factor in the increase in cost of the food basket.

Since 2000, a number of trends are evident from the MBS results. Encouragingly, the number of varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables, and some other selected healthy foods, has increased in remote stores. An improvement in the quality of fresh fruit and vegetables in remote stores is also evident during this time period. There has been little variation in the proportion of income required to purchase the basket of goods between 2000 and 2011.

5. Appendices

Appendix A: Foods in the Market Basket Survey

Appendix B: Fortnightly Income for Hypothetical Family of 6

Appendix C: Survey results of the 2011 Market Basket Survey by district and community

Appendix D: References

Appendix A: List of foods in the 'food basket'

Breads and Cereals	
Flour	4 x 1 kg packets
Bread	14 loaves
Wheat Biscuit Cereal	1 kg packet
Rolled Oats	1 kg packet
Long Grain Rice	1 kg packet
Canned Spaghetti	7 x 425g cans
Fruit	
Apples	50 apples
Oranges	55 oranges
Bananas	55 bananas
Orange Juice	7 litres
Canned Fruit	7 x 440g cans
Vegetables	
Potatoes	8 kilograms
Onions	3 kilograms
Carrots	4 kilograms
Cabbage	3 kilograms (1 large)
Pumpkin	3 kilograms
Fresh Tomatoes	2 kilograms
Canned Tomatoes	6 x 420g tomatoes
Canned Peas	6 x 420g peas
Canned Beans	7 x 440g beans
Baked Beans	7 x 425g baked beans

Meat & Alternatives	
Corned Beef	7 x 340g cans
Meat and Vegetables	7 x 450g cans
Fresh/Frozen meat	1.5 kilograms
Fresh/Frozen Chicken	1 kilogram
Eggs, 55's	1 dozen
Dairy	
Powdered Milk	7 x 1 kg tins
Cheese	3 x 250g packet
Other Foods	
Margarine	4 x 500g packets
Sugar	4 x 1kg packets
Sugar	1 x 500g packet

Appendix B: Fortnightly Income for Hypothetical Family of 6 – 2011*

Grandmother aged 60		
	Pharmaceutical Allowance	$6.00
	Remote Area Allowance	$18.20
	Aged Pension - Single rate	$670.90
Father aged 35		
	New Start	$428.70
	Remote Area Allowance (includes the children)	$37.50
Mother aged 33		
	Parenting Payment	$428.70
	Family Tax Benefit A	
	- for two children under 13 yrs	$320.60
	- for one child 13-15 yrs	$208.46
	Remote Area Allowance	$15.60
TOTAL		**$2134.66**

Note: The Remote Area Allowance is based on age and marital status, and does not vary according to area of residence in the NT (eg. eligible persons receive the same amount in a remote community as they would in Darwin).

*Source: www.centrelink.gov.au, 26/05/2011

Appendix C: Survey results of the 2011 Market Basket Survey by district and community

Alice Springs

	Store Ownership*	Nutrition policy	Store committee	Number Indigenous staff	Number non Indigenous staff	Cost of basket	Availability	Fresh fruit variety	Fresh fruit quality	Fruit price	Fresh vegetable variety	Fresh vegetable quality	Vegetable price	Population
	C	Yes	Yes	6	2	$842	100%	9	9 good	$266	9	9 good	$160	Unknown
	C	No	No	0	1	$825	93%	4	4 good	$244	10	10 good	$166	100-399
	C	No	Yes	1	3	$934	98%	11	8 good, 3 fair	$313	21	20 good, 1 fair	$180	100-399
	C	No	Yes	5	3	$779	98%	9	9 good	$238	15	13 good, 2 fair	$133	100-399
	C	Unknown	Yes	7	5	$777	98%	5	5 good	$209	16	16 good	$151	Unknown
	C	Yes	Yes	2	8	$886	98%	8	8 good	$263	14	14 good	$195	Unknown
	MSG	Yes	Yes	2	1	$791	95%	9	7 good, 2 fair	$229	15	15 good	$150	100-399
	P	Unknown	Yes	4	5	$749	95%	5	4 good, 1 fair	$243	10	8 good, 2 fair	$157	400-799
	C	Unknown	Yes	2	2	$890	98%	7	5 good, 2 fair	$287	13	11 good, 2 fair	$170	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	3	2	$737	95%	9	8 good, 1 fair	$184	17	14 good, 3 fair	$142	100-399
	C	Unknown	Yes	3	2	$769	98%	8	8 good	$235	17	15 good, 2 fair	$149	100-399
	C	No	Yes	2	1	$876	98%	3	3 good	$246	17	17 good	$198	Unknown
	C	No	Yes	7	2	$926	100%	10	9 good, 1 fair	$311	20	20 good	$199	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	7	3	$755	100%	14	9 good, 4 fair, 1 poor	$223	21	16 good, 5 fair	$108	800-1599
	C	Yes	Yes	2	10	$760	93%	7	6 good, 1 fair	$239	15	14 good, 1 fair	$146	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	3	3	$821	100%	12	11 good, 1 fair	$279	13	11 good, 2 fair	$138	100-399
	C	No	Yes	7	4	$793	100%	14	11 good, 3 fair	$225	20	20 good	$184	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	10	1	$733	100%	7	7 good	$233	17	17 good	$116	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	3	3	$805	98%	9	7 good, 2 fair	$264	21	21 good	$153	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	3	0	$782	100%	13	11 good, 2 fair	$241	21	20 good, 1 fair	$133	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	6	3	$791	98%	9	2 good, 5 fair, 1 poor, 1 rotten	$249	11	6 good, 5 fair	$130	100-399
	C	Unknown	Yes	3	2	$880	93%	9	8 good, 1 fair	$270	19	11 good, 8 fair	$209	Unknown
	C	No	Unknown	2	1	$759	95%	3	3 good	$131	11	11 good	$143	800-1599
	C	No	Yes	4	4	$831	46%	5	5 good	$243	7	6 good, 1 poor	$156	800-1599
Remote Stores Average				**4**	**3**	**$811**	**95%**	**8**		**$249**	**15**		**$156**	
Supermarket						$553				$189			$103	
Corner Store						$726				$211			$123	

*C = owned and managed by community or indigenous corporation, P = private, OSG = owned by store group, MSG = managed by store group, L = leased from community, O = other

Barkly

	Store Ownership*	Nutrition policy	Store committee	Number Indigenous staff	Number non Indigenous staff	Cost of basket	Availability	Fruit (fresh) variety	Fruit (fresh) quality	Fruit price	Vegetable (fresh) variety	Vegetable (fresh) quality	Vegetable price	Population
	MSG	Yes	Yes	6	3	$845	98%	9	9 good	$292	18	17 good, 1 fair	$143	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	4	2	$869	93%	11	11 good	$294	19	18 good, 1 fair	$150	100-399
	C	Yes	Yes	2	1	$794	98%	10	10 good	$283	18	15 good, 2 fair, 1 poor	$131	Unknown
Remote Stores Average				**4**	**4**	**$835**	**96%**	**10**		**$290**	**18**		**$140**	
Supermarket						$713				$248			$101	
Corner Store						$722				$267			$118	

*C = owned and managed by community or indigenous corporation, P = private, OSG = owned by store group, MSG = managed by store group, ,L = leased from community, O = other

Darwin

	Store Ownership*	Nutrition policy	Store committee	Number Indigenous staff	Number non Indigenous staff	Cost of basket	Availability	Fruit (fresh) variety	Fruit (fresh) quality	Fruit price	Vegetable (fresh) variety	Vegetable (fresh) quality	Vegetable price	Population
	P	Unknown	No	0	2	$781	90%	4	4 good	$262	13	13 good	$151	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	12	2	$801	100%	8	8 good	$201	15	13 good, 2 fair	$147	Unknown
	P	No	Yes	0	4	$759	98%	7	6 good, 1 fair	$218	13	13 good	$163	800-1599
	C	Yes	No	2	2	$832	98%	10	8 good, 1 fair, 1 poor	$234	18	13 good, 5 fair	$144	100-399
	C	Unknown	Unknown	8	1	$782	73%	1	1 good	$229	4	3 good, 1 fair	$138	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	No	15	3	$744	88%	18	16 good, 2 fair	$198	27	25 good, 1 fair, 1 poor	$134	800-1599
	P	No	No	5	4	$856	71%	7	7 good	$221	8	6 good, 1 fair, 1 poor	$204	800-1599
	P	Yes	No	3	17	$627	93%	18	17 good, 1 poor	$191	33	31 good, 2 fair	$118	800-1599
	C	No	Yes	12	6	$754	85%	14	14 good	$200	30	28 good, 2 fair	$161	>=1600
	C	No	Yes	10	3	$907	98%	9	9 good	$286	22	21 good, 1 fair	$163	400-799
	OSG	Yes	Yes	3	3	$850	98%	7	7 good	$236	21	21 good	$162	Unknown
	C	No	Unknown	0	0	$771	95%	13	13 good	$225	34	33 good, 1 fair	$122	>=1600
	C	No	Yes	8	12	$769	98%	17	16 good, 1 fair	$197	25	21 good, 4 fair	$134	>=1600
	C	Unknown	Yes	7	3	$820	100%	10	9 good, 1 fair	$201	20	15 good, 5 fair	$180	400-799
	C	Unknown	Yes	24	2	$790	98%	11	11 good	$223	23	23 good	$150	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	No	8	2	$1,073	98%	12	10 good, 2 fair	$428	25	13 good, 11 fair, 1 poor	$218	400-799
	C	No	Yes	5	0	$989	85%	5	5 good	$239	16	15 good, 1 fair	$308	Unknown
	MSG	Yes	Yes	15	3	$795	100%	22	22 good	$217	23	23 good	$147	400-799
	P	No	No	0	8	$890	93%	7	7 good	$289	14	14 good	$166	100-399
Remote Stores Average				7	4	**$821**	**92%**	**11**		**$237**	**20**		**$162**	**1209**
Supermarket						$561				$159			$121	
Corner Store						$638				$164			$125	

*C = owned and managed by community or indigenous corporation, P = private, OSG = owned by store group, MSG = managed by store group, ,L = leased from community, O = other

East Arnhem

	Store Ownership*	Nutrition policy	Store committee	Number Indigenous staff	Number non Indigenous staff	Cost of basket	Availability	Fruit (fresh) variety	Fruit (fresh) quality	Fruit price	Vegetable (fresh) variety	Vegetable (fresh) quality	Vegetable price	Population
	OSG	Yes	Yes	50	8	$842	100%	13	12 good, 1 fair	$235	18	18 good	$156	>=1600
	OSG	Yes	Yes	31	3	$799	100%	13	13 good	$220	19	14 good, 5 fair	$134	800-1599
	OSG	Yes	Yes	26	4	$783	100%	11	11 good	$207	21	19 good, 2 fair	$134	800-1599
	OSG	Yes	Yes	26	5	$826	95%	11	10 good, 1 fair	$220	24	23 good, 1 fair	$150	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Yes	7	2	$792	95%	10	9 good, 1 fair	$186	18	9 good, 9 fair	$137	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Yes	9	3	$820	100%	11	9 good, 2 fair	$209	10	7 good, 2 fair, 1 poor	$146	800-1599
	O	No	No	2	14	$935	88%	7	6 good, 1 fair	$256	6	6 good	$247	>=1600
	MSG	Yes	Yes	5	3	$828	100%	11	10 good, 1 fair	$215	18	15 good, 3 fair	$167	400-799
	L	Yes	Yes	1	8	$1,025	98%	12	12 good	$265	16	15 good, 1 fair	$202	800-1599
Remote Stores Average				**17**	**6**	**$849**	**97%**	**11**		**$224**	**17**		**$162**	
Supermarket						$678				$208			$134	
Corner Store						$1,000				$277			$172	

*C = owned and managed by community or indigenous corporation, P = private, OSG = owned by store group, MSG = managed by store group, ,L = leased from community, O = other

Katherine

	Store Ownership*	Nutrition policy	Store committee	Number Indigenous staff	Number non Indigenous staff	Cost of basket	Availability	Fruit (fresh) variety	Fruit (fresh) quality	Fruit price	Vegetable (fresh) variety	Vegetable (fresh) quality	Vegetable price	Population
	MSG	Yes	Yes	10	1	$652	98%	10	5 good, 2 fair, 3 poor	$228	18	7 good, 9 fair, 2 rotten	$126	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	0	0	$7080	95%	9	8 good, 1 fair	$183	17	17 good	$115	100-399
	C	No	Yes	1	1	$884	85%	8	4 good, 1 fair, 3 poor	$263	10	9 good, 1 fair	$199	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	8	2	$744	98%	11	11 good	$215	20	18 good, 2 fair	$115	100-399
	L	Not recorded	Yes	2	2	$886	95%	4	4 good	$248	5	3 good, 1 fair, 1 poor	$203	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	3	2	$758	100%	12	9 good, 3 fair	$150	14	12 good, 1 fair, 1 poor	$186	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	14	2	$823	95%	5	5 good	$215	14	14 good	$191	400-799
	C	Yes	Yes	5	8	$829	85%	9	9 good	$218	18	18 good	$185	Unknown
	MSG	Yes	Yes	12	4	$773	95%	13	12 good, 1 fair	$253	21	21 good	$132	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	0	2	$705	95%	7	6 good, 1 fair	$209	13	11 good, 2 fair	$148	Unknown
	MSG	Yes	Yes	14	4	$739	93%	12	12 good	$182	17	17 good	$135	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Yes	2	1	$788	80%	6	5 good, 1 fair	$188	7	3 good, 4 fair	$151	Unknown
	P	No	No	5	2	$822	93%	8	8 good	$247	17	15 good, 2 fair	$171	400-799
	MSG	Yes	No	0	10	$967	95%	7	7 good	$228	13	11 good, 2 fair	$206	<100
	P	No	No	0	2	$923	95%	10	10 good	$265	11	9 good, 2 fair	$224	Unknown
	C	No	Yes	2	1	$879	83%	8	8 good	$231	16	16 good	$237	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	5	2	$725	95%	11	11 good	$178	20	18 good, 2 fair	$143	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	4	2	$755	98%	8	8 good	$172	16	15 good, 1 fair	$198	100-399
Remote Stores Average				**5**	**3**	**$797**	**93%**	**9**		**$215**	**15**		**$169**	
Supermarket						$565				$170			$136	
Corner Store						$720				$198			$151	

*C = owned and managed by community or indigenous corporation, P = private, OSG = owned by store group, MSG = managed by store group, ,L = leased from community, O = other

6. References

(1) Brimblecombe J, Mackerras D, Clifford P, O'Dea K. Does the store-turnover method still provide a useful guide to food intakes in Aboriginal communities? Aust NZ J Public Health 2006;30.

(2) McComb J, Price R, Priestly J, Freeman J, Trevaskis G, Rogers O, et al. Surveys of food availability, quality and price in the Top End rural and remote communities: the dry season (April-July 1998). Darwin: Territory Health Services; 1998.

(3) Cashel K, Jefferson S. The core food groups. Canberra: NHMRC; 1992.

(4) Australian Bureau of Statistics. Consumer Price Index, Australia. [6401.0]. 2011. Canberra.

(5) Wild R, Anderson P. Ampe Akelyernemane Meke Mekarle 'Little children are sacred'. Darwin: Northern Territory Government; 2007.

(6) Cultural and Indigenous Research Centre Australia. Evaluation of the Community Stores Licensing Program - Final Report. 2011.

(7) National Health and Medical Research Council. Dietary Guidelines for Australian Adults. 2003. Commonwealth of Australia.

(8) Australian Bureau of Statistics. National Health Survey Summary of Results 2007-2008. [4362.0]. 2009. Canberra, Australian Bureau of Statistics.

(9) Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Health Institute of Health and Welfare. The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia; 2008. Report No.: ABS Catalogue No. 4704.0;AIHW Catalogue No. IHW 21.

(10) Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. Australian Guide to Healthy Eating. Commonwealth of Australia; 1998.

(11) Northern Territory Treasury. Grocery Price Survey June 2011. 2011. Accessed 2011 Sep 30; Available from: URL: <http://www.nt.gov.au/ntt/economics/publications/gps/gps_2011jun.pdf>