NORTHERN TERRITORY

Market Basket Survey 2012

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Executive summary

- The 2012 Market Basket Survey (MBS) is the thirteenth annual survey of remote stores in the Northern Territory (NT).
- Eighty-two rural and remote stores in the NT were surveyed between April and June 2012; a supermarket and corner store in the major town/city in each of the district centres were 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 $760 in remote stores, $712 in district centre corner stores and $534 in district centre supermarkets.
- East Arnhem was the most expensive district ($792) and Barkly the least expensive ($731).
- On average, the food basket in remote stores was 49% more expensive than in the Darwin supermarket, and 21% more expensive than in the Darwin corner store.
- Compared to 2011, the average cost of the food basket decreased by 7% in remote stores and 13% in district centre supermarkets.
- The proportion of family income required to purchase the food basket was 23% in a Darwin supermarket. This was a decrease from the 2011 survey, where the percentage of income was 26%. The proportion of family income required to purchase the food basket was 35% in remote stores. This was a decrease from the 2011 survey, where the proportion of income was 38%.
- 64% of people employed in remote community stores were Aboriginal*.
- 83% of fresh fruits and 82% of fresh vegetables were rated to be of ‘good’ quality.
- The average number of fresh fruit varieties available in remote stores was 10; this is the same number of varieties as in 2009 and 2010 and is the highest number of varieties available in any of the years surveyed. The average number of fresh vegetable varieties available in remote stores was 17; this is same number of varieties as in 2009 and 2011 and is the highest number of varieties available in any of the years surveyed.
- On average 96% of items in the food basket were available, or usually available, in the remote stores surveyed.

* Throughout this document the term Aboriginal should be taken to include Torres Strait Islander people.

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 Aboriginal people living in remote areas.

In 1995 the then 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.

In addition to collecting information on cost, the MBS also collects information on store management, employment of Aboriginal people, existence of a store nutrition policy, community development initiatives by the store (e.g. 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 to enable comparison of prices between urban and remote districts. 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.

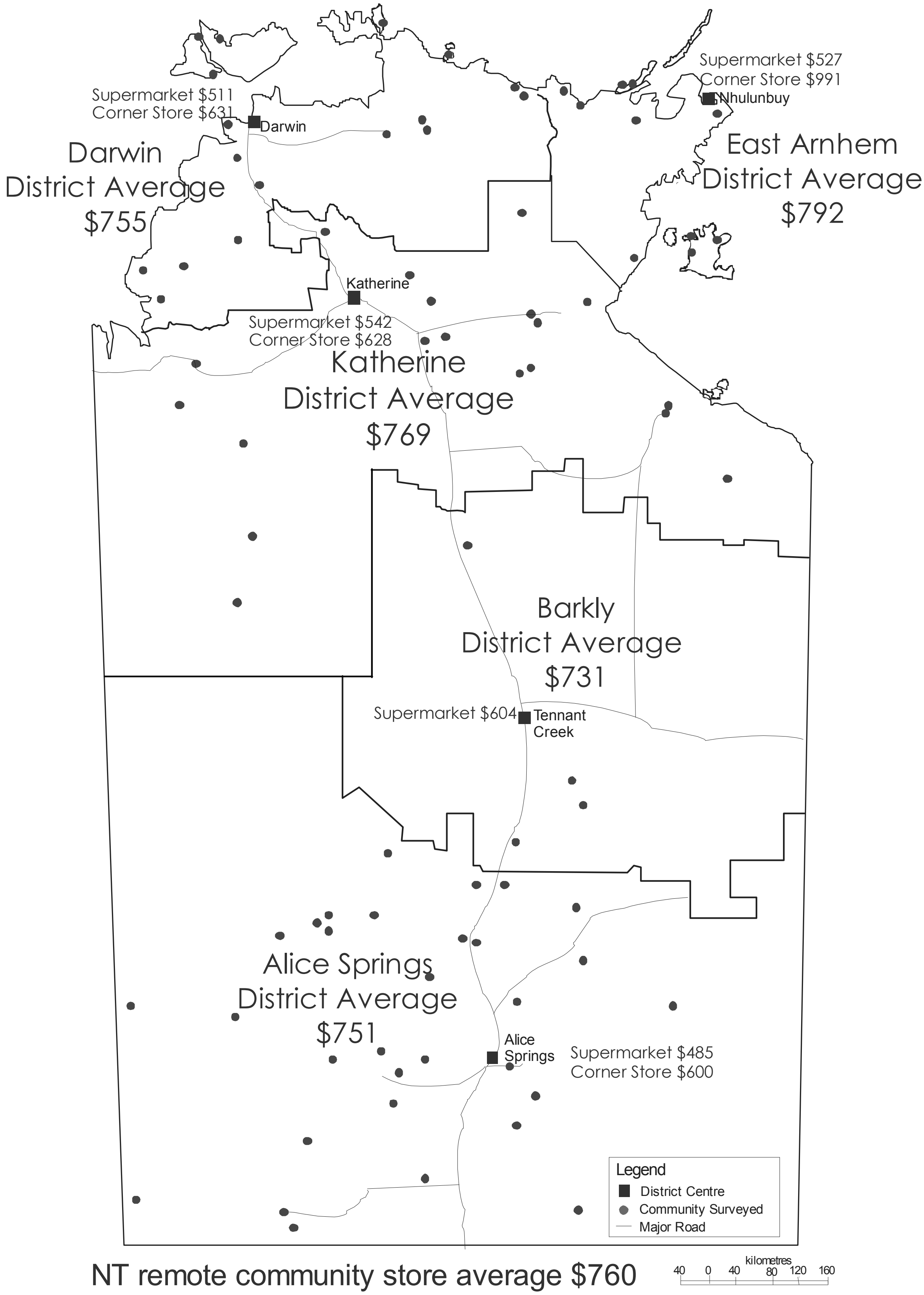


Figure 1: Location of stores surveyed and cost of food basket in each district

2. Results

2.1. 2012 survey

Store characteristics

Eighty-two remote stores were surveyed between April and June 2012. 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, 2012

	Alice Springs Remote	Barkly Remote	Darwin Remote	East Arnhem Remote	Katherine Remote	Total Remote Stores
Ownership*						
Owned and managed by community or Aboriginal corporation	15	0	8	0	3	26
Privately owned	7	1	4	0	6	18
Owned by store group (e.g. ALPA)	0	0	1	4	0	5
Managed by store group (e.g. Outback Stores, ALPA)	8	3	4	3	11	29
Leased from community	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other/Not recorded	1	0	0	2	0	3
Management characteristics						
Store committee[#]	24	3	7	7	13	54
Nutrition policy[#]	16	3	5	7	13	44
Number of stores	**31**	**4**	**17**	**10**	**20**	**82**

- 32% (26) of stores surveyed were owned and managed by the community or a local Aboriginal corporation.
- 35% (29) of stores were owned by the community and managed by a store group [e.g. Arnhem Land Progress Association (ALPA) and Outback Stores].
- 66% (54) of stores surveyed had a store committee[#].
- 54% (44) of stores stated that they had a nutrition policy[#].

[#] 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 2: Employment characteristics by store ownership and management, remote stores, 2012

	Owned and managed by community or Aboriginal corporation	Privately owned	Owned by store group (eg ALPA)	Managed by store group (e.g. Outback Stores, ALPA)	Leased from community	Other/Not recorded	All remote stores
Number stores with Aboriginal employees	22	6	4	29	-	1	62
Number of Aboriginal employees	134	20	95	232	-	2	483
Total employees	222	117	112	295	-	12	758
Per cent Aboriginal employees	60%	17%	85%	79%	-	17%	64%
Stores with no employment information recorded	2	0	1	0	1	1	5
Number of stores	**26**	**18**	**5**	**29**	**1**	**3**	**82**

- The proportion of Aboriginal employees was highest in stores that were either owned (85%) or managed (79%) by a store group (e.g. ALPA and Outback Stores).
- 64% of employees in the remote stores surveyed were Aboriginal.

Variety and quality of fresh 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 are counted as one variety.

Table 3: Number of varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables by district, remote stores, 2012

	Alice Springs Remote	Barkly Remote	Darwin Remote	East Arnhem Remote	Katherine Remote	All Remote Stores
Average number of fresh fruit varieties	9	12	12	11	10	10
Range	1 - 20	5 - 17	5 - 20	6 - 17	3-16	1 – 20
Average number of fresh vegetable varieties	15	18	20	17	15	17
Range	3 - 25	12 - 27	9 - 33	5 - 26	5 - 24	3 – 33
Number of stores	**31**	**4**	**17**	**10**	**20**	**82**

- On average there were 10 different varieties of fresh fruit and 17 different varieties of fresh vegetables in remote stores.
- All stores had at least one variety of fresh fruit and vegetables available on the day of survey.

Table 4: Number of varieties of fresh vegetable by subgroups[4] by district, remote stores, 2012

	Alice Springs Remote	Barkly Remote	Darwin Remote	East Arnhem Remote	Katherine Remote	All Remote Stores
Average number of green and brassica vegetable varieties	5	7	7	6	5	5
Range	1 - 10	1 - 12	2 - 12	1 - 9	2 - 10	1 - 12
Average number of orange vegetable varieties	3	3	3	3	3	3
Range	0 - 3	3 - 3	2 - 3	2 - 3	2 - 3	0 - 3
Average number of starchy vegetable varieties	1	2	2	2	1	1
Range	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2
Average number of other vegetable varieties	7	7	10	8	7	8
Range	1 - 14	4 - 10	5 - 16	2 - 13	3 - 11	1 - 16
Number of stores	**31**	**4**	**17**	**10**	**20**	**82**

- At least 1 variety of fresh vegetable was available in the ‘green and brassica’, ‘starchy’ and ‘other’ vegetable subgroup in all stores.
- Only one store had no varieties of fresh vegetables in the ‘orange’ vegetable subgroup available on the day of survey.

In addition to fresh vegetables, 76 of the 82 stores surveyed had at least one variety of legumes [dried or canned (not including baked beans)] available (data not shown).

Table 5: Quality# of fresh fruit by district, remote stores, 2012

	Alice Springs Remote	Barkly Remote	Darwin Remote	East Arnhem Remote	Katherine Remote	All Remote Stores
Good	75%	94%	82%	81%	92%	83%
Fair	22%	6%	15%	17%	7%	15%
Poor	3%	-	2%	1%	1%	2%
Rotten	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not rated	-	-	-	<1%	-	<1%

Table 5: Quality# of fresh vegetables by district, remote stores, 2012

	Alice Springs Remote	Barkly Remote	Darwin Remote	East Arnhem Remote	Katherine Remote	All Remote Stores
Good	77%	92%	84%	84%	84%	82%
Fair	20%	8%	14%	14%	14%	16%
Poor	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Rotten	-	-	-	1%	-	<1%
Not rated	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Overall, 83% of fresh fruit and 82% of fresh vegetables were rated to be of ‘good’ quality on the day of survey.
- Barkly remote stores (4 stores) had the highest proportion of ‘good’ fresh fruit and ‘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 6: Usual availability of food basket items by district, remote stores, 2012

	Alice Springs Remote	Barkly Remote	Darwin Remote	East Arnhem Remote	Katherine Remote	All Remote Stores
Average availability of prices of items in food basket	97%	97%	97%	96%	95%	96%
Range	88- 100%	93 - 100%	80 - 100%	90 - 100%	90 - 100%	81 - 100%
Number of stores with 100% of items	12	2	8	2	6	30
Number of stores	**31**	**4**	**17**	**10**	**20**	**82**

- On average 96% of items were available, or usually available in remote stores.
- 37% (30) of the 82 remote stores surveyed had, or usually had, all the items available in their store.

Table 7: Average cost of food basket by district, remote stores, 2012

	Alice Springs Remote	Barkly Remote	Darwin Remote	East Arnhem Remote	Katherine Remote	Remote Store Average
Bread & cereals	$110	$104	$117	$117	$114	$113
Fruit	$189	$182	$178	$174	$178	$182
Vegetables	$155	$133	$152	$154	$163	$155
Meat & alternative	$120	$130	$118	$131	$121	$122
Dairy	$140	$147	$151	$174	$152	$150
Other foods	$37	$35	$39	$41	$40	$39
Total basket	**$751**	**$731**	**$755**	**$792**	**$769**	**$760**
Number of stores	**31**	**4**	**17**	**10**	**20**	**82**

- The average cost of the food basket ranged from $731 in the Barkly remote stores to $792 in East Arnhem remote stores.
- The average cost of the food basket in all remote stores surveyed was $760.

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

Table 8: Cost of food basket by district, supermarkets and corner stores, 2012

	Alice Springs	Barkly	Darwin	East Arnhem	Katherine	NT Average
Bread & cereals						
Supermarket	$82	$92	$86	$85	$81	$85
Corner store	$86	-	$92	$150	$109	$109
Fruit						
Supermarket	$114	$129	$128	$126	$155	$130
Corner store	$138	-	$148	$233	$164	$171
Vegetables						
Supermarket	$97	$101	$103	$118	$111	$106
Corner store	$92	-	$140	$173	$125	$132
Meat & alternative						
Supermarket	$93	$99	$89	$92	$92	$93
Corner store	$104	-	$97	$156	$109	$116
Dairy						
Supermarket	$78	$154	$81	$79	$80	$94
Corner store	$152	-	$124	$231	$91	$150
Other foods						
Supermarket	$21	$30	$24	$27	$24	$25
Corner store	$29	-	$30	$48	$29	$34
Total basket						
Supermarket	**$485**	**$604#**	**$511**	**$527**	**$542#**	**$534#**
Corner store	**$600#**	**-**	**$631**	**$991**	**$628#**	**$712**

Supermarket

- The average cost of the basket in the supermarkets was $534.
- Barkly had the most expensive supermarket food basket ($604) and Alice Springs had the cheapest ($485).

Corner store

- The average cost of the basket in the corner stores was 33% higher than the district centre supermarkets ($712 compared to $534).
- East Arnhem had the most expensive corner store food basket ($991) and Alice Springs had the cheapest ($600).

Due to rounding of numbers the sum of food groups does not equal the total basket cost in some instances in Table 9.

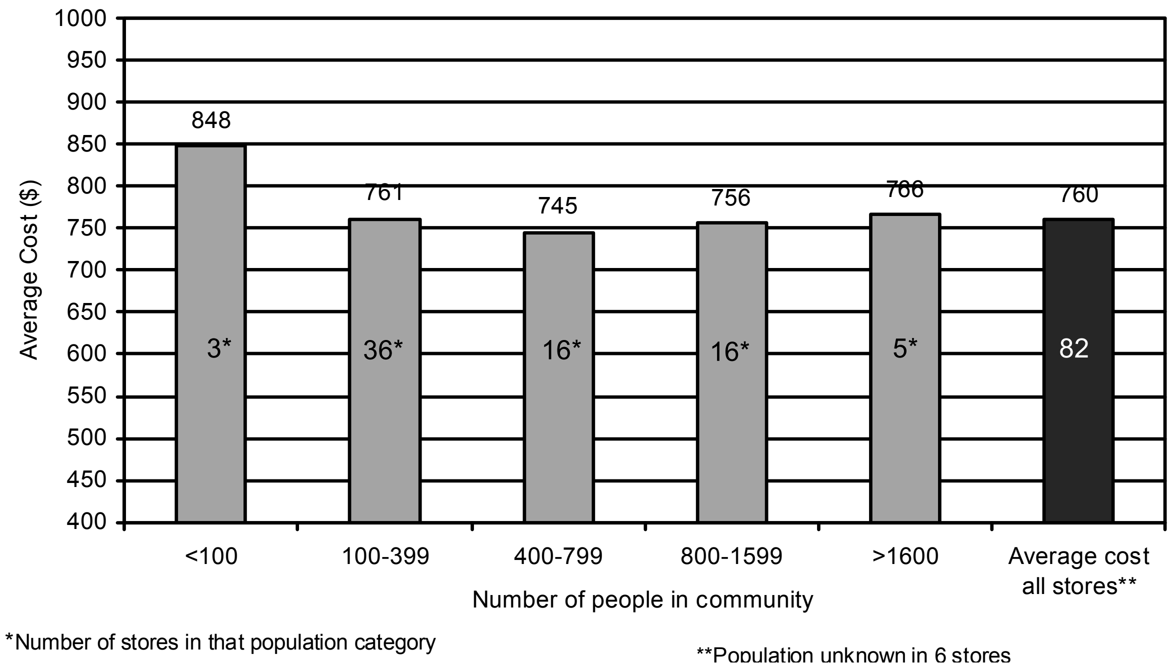
Table 9: Differentials in the cost of the food basket between remote stores and a Darwin supermarket and corner store by district, 2012

	Alice Springs Remote	Barkly Remote*	Darwin Remote	East Arnhem Remote	Katherine Remote	Average-NT Remote Stores
Bread & cereals						
Supermarket	27%	21%	35%	35%	32%	**31%**
Corner store	20%	14%	27%	28%	25%	**23%**
Fruit						
Supermarket	47%	42%	38%	36%	39%	**41%**
Corner store	27%	23%	20%	17%	20%	**22%**
Vegetables						
Supermarket	51%	30%	48%	50%	59%	**51%**
Corner store	11%	-5%	9%	10%	17%	**11%**
Meat & alternative						
Supermarket	35%	46%	33%	47%	36%	**37%**
Corner store	23%	34%	21%	34%	24%	**25%**
Dairy						
Supermarket	73%	81%	86%	114%	87%	**84%**
Corner store	13%	19%	22%	41%	23%	**21%**
Other foods						
Supermarket	56%	45%	65%	74%	70%	**63%**
Corner store	25%	16%	32%	39%	36%	**31%**
Total basket						
Supermarket	**47%**	**43%**	**48%**	**55%**	**50%**	**49%**
Corner Store	**20%**	**16%**	**20%**	**25%**	**22%**	**21%**

- The cost of the food basket was 49% higher in remote stores than a Darwin supermarket.
- The cost of the food basket was 21% higher in remote stores than a Darwin corner store.
- East Arnhem remote stores were the most expensive, being 55% and 25% more expensive than the Darwin supermarket and corner store, respectively.

Population

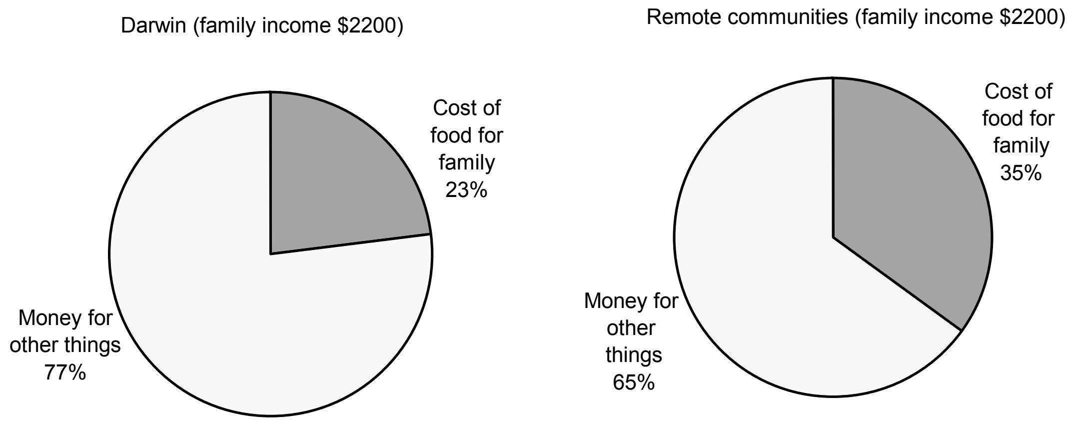
Figure 2: Average cost of the food basket by community population, 2012



The average cost is notably higher in the stores servicing communities with a population of less than 100 people (3 stores only). In larger communities there was little variation in the cost of the food basket.

Relation between family income and the cost of the food basket

Figure 3: Proportion of income needed to purchase of the food basket, 2012



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 $23 on the food basket, whereas a family in a remote community will spend approximately $35.

2.2. Cost compared to 2011 survey

Table 10: Variation in the cost of the food basket groups by district, remote stores, 2011 to 2012

	Alice Springs Remote	Barkly Remote	Darwin Remote	East Arnhem Remote	Katherine Remote	NT Average
Bread & cereals	4%	3%	1%	-1%	4%	2%
Fruit	-24%	-37%	-25%	-22%	-17%	-23%
Vegetables	0%	-5%	-7%	-5%	-4%	-4%
Meat & alternative	1%	9%	3%	1%	0%	2%
Dairy	-4%	-5%	-1%	-1%	6%	1%
Other foods	5%	15%	5%	6%	6%	5%
Total basket	**-7%**	**-12%**	**-8%**	**-7%**	**-4%**	**-7%**

- Overall, the cost of the food basket decreased by 7% in remote stores from 2011 to 2012.
- Barkly remote stores had the largest decrease in the cost of the basket (-12%).
- The ‘fruit’ portion of the basket had the greatest cost decrease from 2011 to 2012 (-23%).

Table 11: Variation in the cost of the food groups in the basket by district, supermarkets, 2011 to 2012

	Alice Springs supermarket	Barkly supermarket	Darwin supermarket	East Arnhem supermarket	Katherine supermarket	NT supermarket average
Bread & cereals	29%	0%	33%	-18%	22%	9%
Fruit	-40%	-48%	-19%	-40%	-9%	-33%
Vegetables	-6%	1%	-15%	-12%	-18%	-11%
Meat & alternative	12%	7%	6%	-1%	0%	4%
Dairy	-17%	1%	-28%	-29%	2%	-14%
Other foods	6%	8%	24%	0%	2%	7%
Total basket	**-12%**	**-15%**	**-9%**	**-22%**	**-4%**	**-13%**

- Overall, the cost of the food basket decreased in all supermarkets from 2011 to 2012.
- The average decrease in district centre supermarkets was -13%.
- The largest decrease was in the East Arnhem supermarket (-22%).
- The ‘fruit’, ‘vegetables’ and ‘dairy’ food groups all decreased from 2011 to 2012.
- The decrease was greatest in the ‘fruit’ portion of the basket (-33%).

2.3. Comparison of surveys, 2000 – 2012

Store Characteristics

Figure 4: Store governance and employment characteristics, remote stores, 2000 - 2012

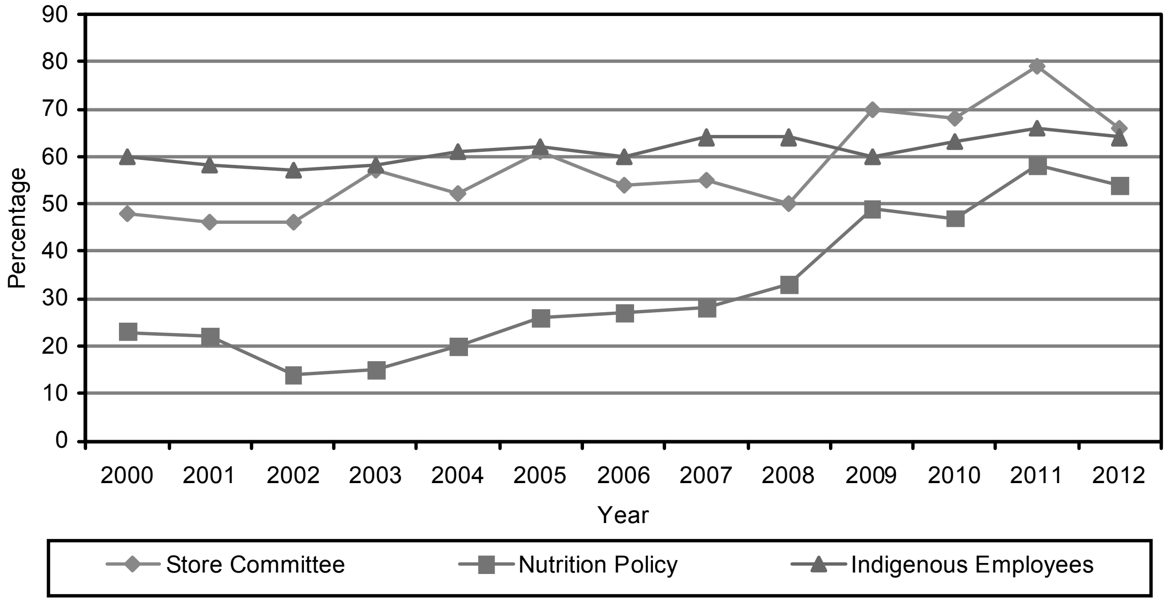


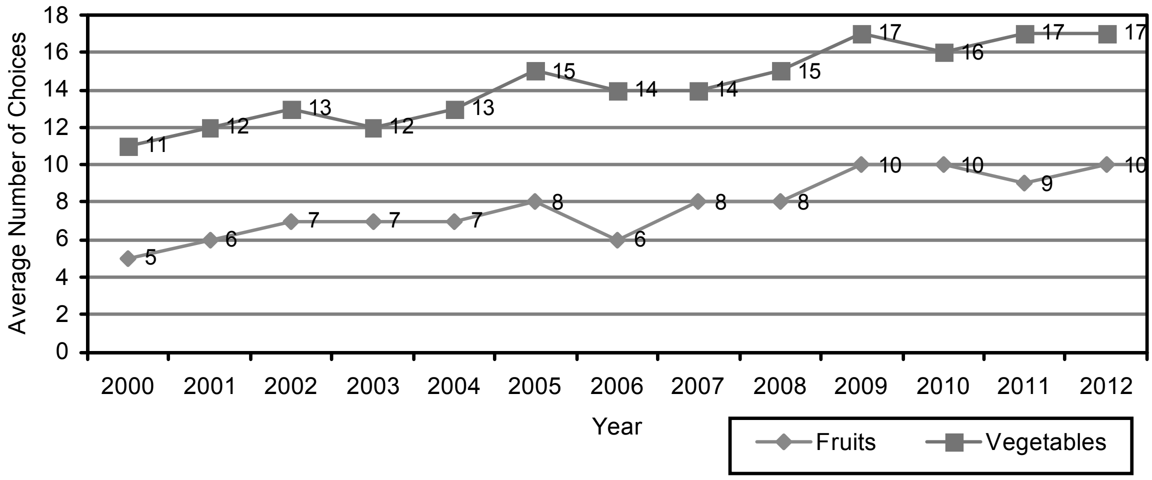
Table 12: Store governance and employment characteristics, remote stores, 2000 - 2012

Year	% with Store Committee	% with Nutrition Policy	% Aboriginal 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
2012	66%	54%	64%	82

- 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 subsequent surveys.
- There was little change in the percentage of Aboriginal employees in remote stores between 2000 and 2012.

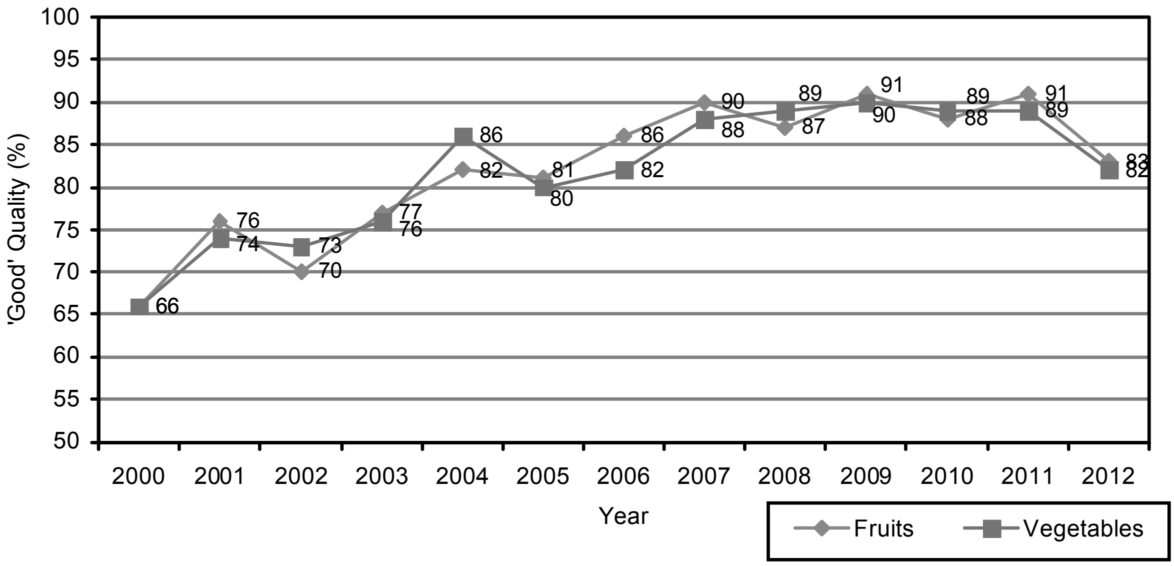
Food variety and quality

Figure 5: Average number of varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables, remote stores, 2000 - 2012



There has been an upward trend in the average number of varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables from 2000 to 2012. The average number of varieties of fresh fruit available was highest in 2009, 2010 and 2012 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, 2010 and 2012 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 - 2012



The proportion of fresh fruit and vegetables that were rated to be of 'good' quality increased steadily from 2000 to 2011. There was a decrease in the proportion of fresh fruit and vegetables that were rated to be of 'good' quality in the 2012 survey.

Figure 7: Average number of varieties of selected foodstuffs available, remote stores, 2000 - 2012

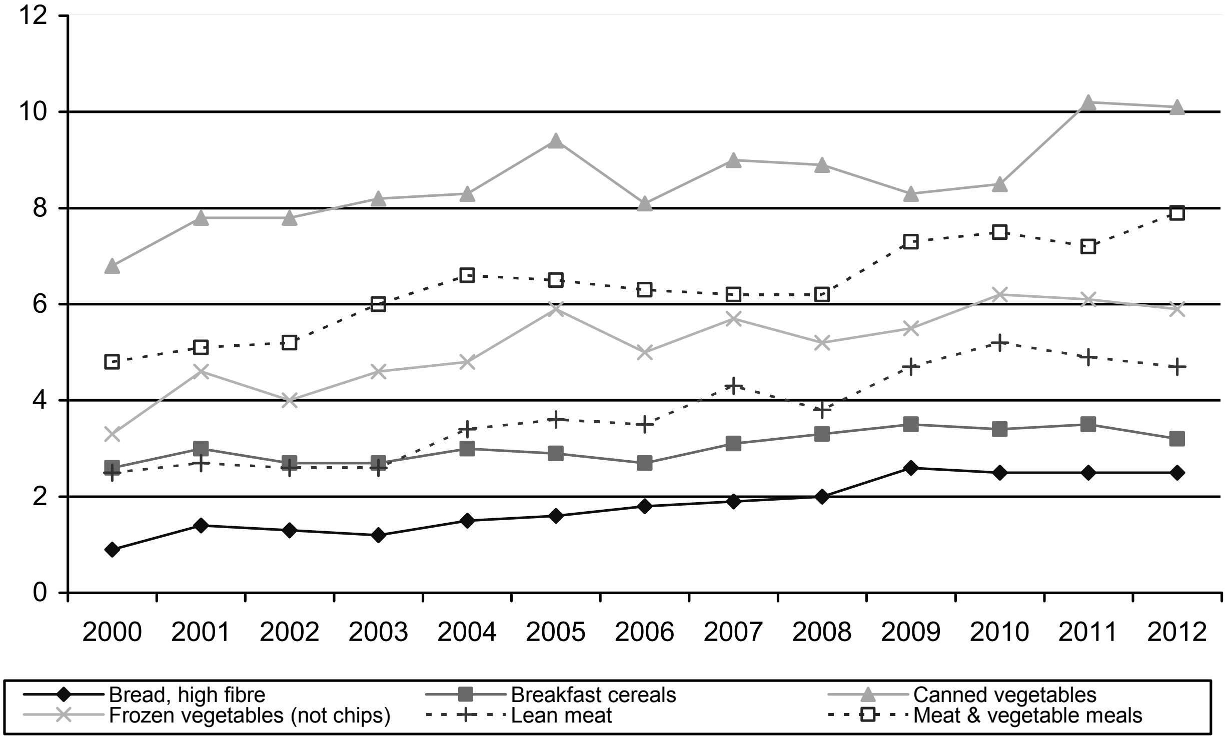


Table 13: Average number of varieties of selected foodstuffs available, remote stores, 2000 - 2012

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	2.5	3.5	10.2	6.1	4.9	7.2
2012	2.5	3.2	10.1	5.9	4.7	7.9

- The average number of varieties of all the foods shown above increased in remote stores from 2000 to 2012.
- The average numbers of varieties of lean meat and frozen vegetables have nearly doubled and the number of varieties of high fibre bread has increased nearly threefold from 2000 to 2012.

Price comparisons

Figure 8: Average cost of the food basket by district, remote stores, 2000 - 2012

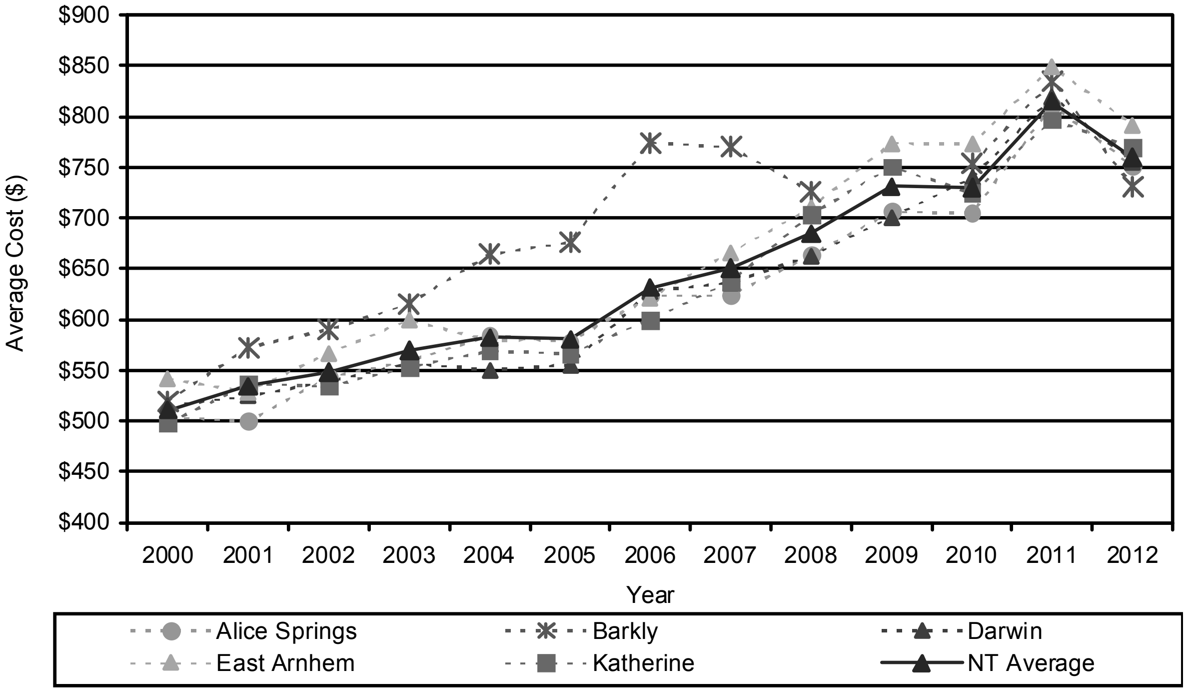


Table 14: Average cost of the food basket by district, remote stores, 2000 - 2012

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
2012	$751	$731	$755	$792	$769	$760

- East Arnhem remote stores were the most expensive in 2000, and from 2009 to 2012. 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, 2010 and 2012 when there was a decrease compared to the previous survey.
- Overall the cost of the food basket in remote stores increased by 49% ($511 to $760) between 2000 and 2012.

* 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 – 2012

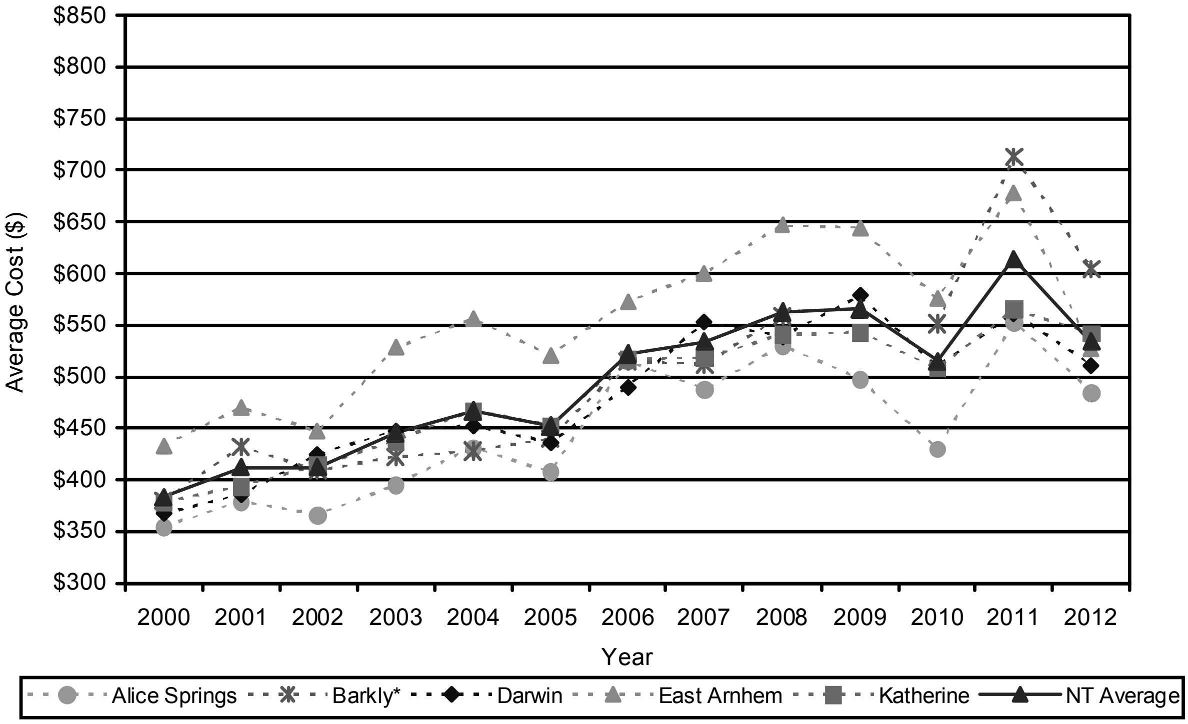


Table 15: Cost of the food basket, district centre supermarkets, 2000 - 2012

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
2012	$485	$604	$511	$527	$542	$534

- The most expensive supermarket was in East Arnhem from 2000 to 2010 and Barkly in 2011 and 2012.
- The cheapest supermarket has been in Alice Springs each year except in 2004.
- The average cost of the basket in district centre supermarkets increased by 39% ($383 to $534) from 2000 to 2012.

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

Figure 10: Cost of the food basket, remote stores compared with Darwin supermarket, 2000 - 2012

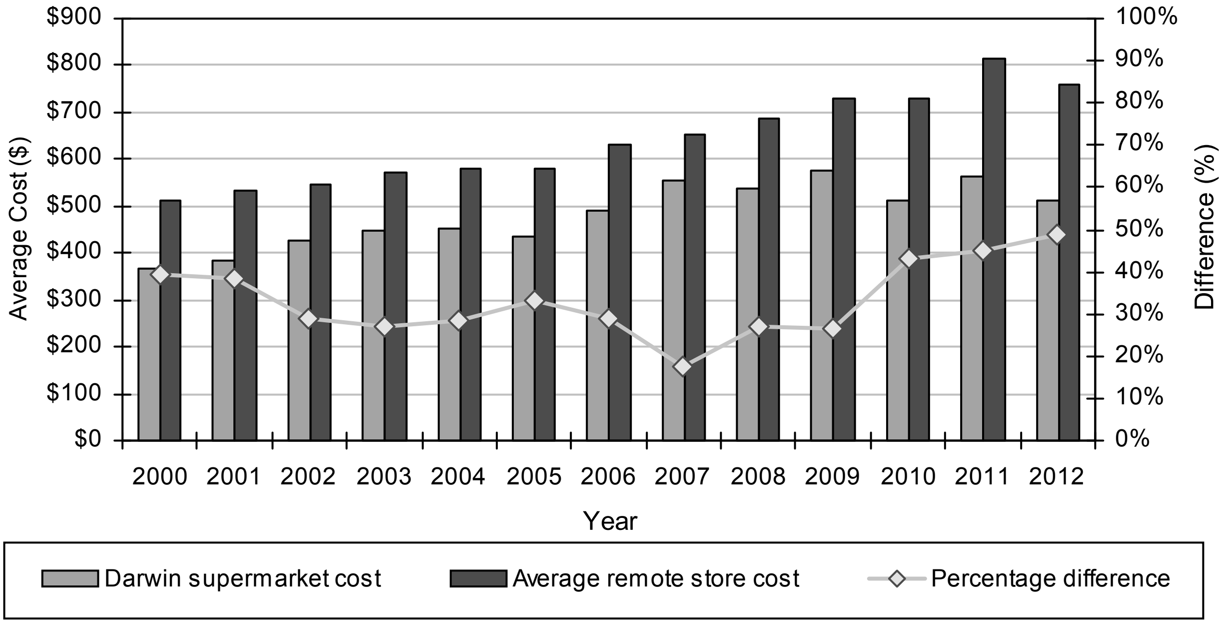


Table 16: Cost of the food basket, remote stores compared with Darwin supermarket, 2000 - 2012

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%
2012	$511	$760	49%

- The cost difference between remote stores and the Darwin supermarket was greatest in 2012 when the food basket cost 49% 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 - 2012

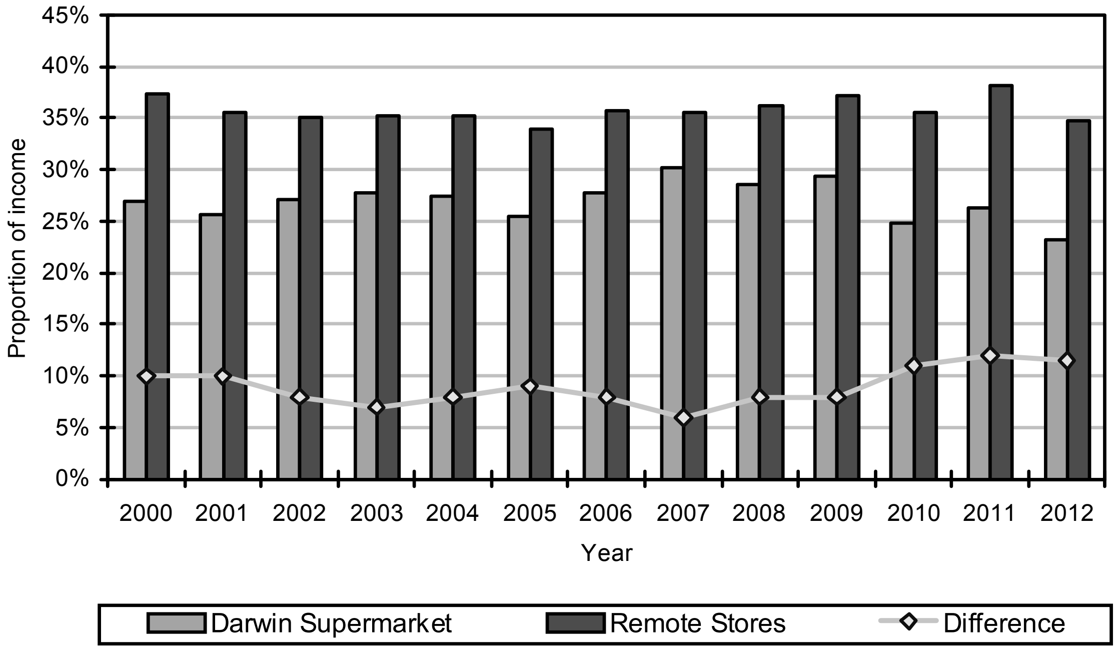


Table 17: Proportion of income needed to purchase the food basket, remote stores compared to Darwin supermarket, 2000 - 2012

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%
2012	23%	35%	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 the proportion of income required to purchase the food basket in remote stores compared to Darwin was greatest in 2011 and 2012 (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 - 2012

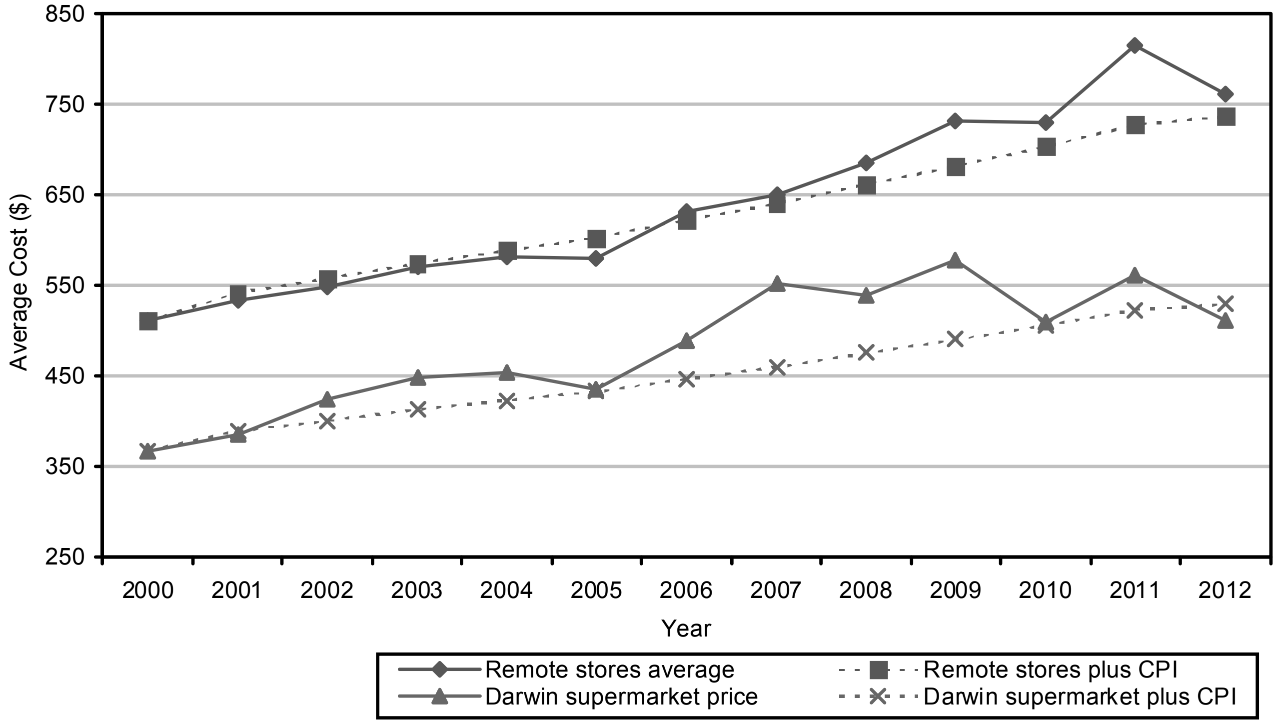


Table 18: Cost of the food basket compared with projected cost of the food basket with annual CPI increases, remote stores and Darwin supermarket, 2000 - 2012

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%
2012	$760	$736	$511	$529	1.2%

- In remote stores the actual cost of the food basket was similar to the projected cost of the basket using annual CPI[5] rates, except for 2011 when the actual cost was notably higher than expected.
- 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

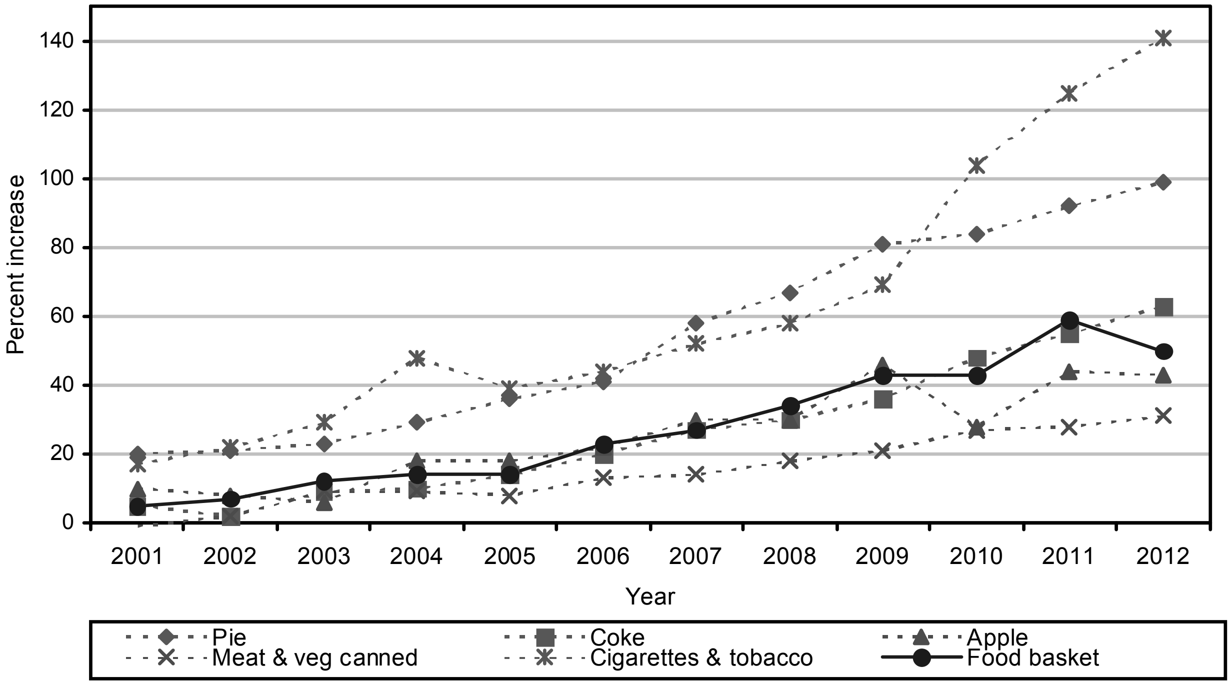


Table 19: Cost increase (in per cent) of selected store items and food basket from 2000 remote stores

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%
2012	99%	64%	42%	31%	141%	50%

- Cigarettes and tobacco had the greatest percentage cost increase from 2000 to 2012 (141%).
- The price of the ‘healthier’ meal items (meat and vegetable canned meal and apple) both increased less than the food basket, while the pie and coke both increased more than the food basket price from 2000 to 2012.

3. Discussion

The 2012 MBS is the thirteenth annual survey of remote community stores in the Northern Territory. Since the inception of the survey, a number of changes have occurred that have the potential to impact the results of this survey.

In early 2007 the Australian Government announced the establishment of Outback Stores, a company set up to manage stores on behalf of remote communities to ensure their commercial viability and a reliable supply of healthy, affordable food. Outback Stores began operating in its first store in May 2007; in this survey Outback Stores managed 19 stores.

In June 2007 the Australian Government announced the NT Emergency Response (NTER) in response to the *Little Children are Sacred* report.[6] 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 January 2012, shortly before commencement of the 2012 MBS, 91 stores were licensed.[7]

The licensing of community stores was designed to improve both the management of stores and the quality of food they provide. As part of licensing conditions stores are expected to have a reasonable 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, is therefore likely to have had an impact on some of the information monitored through this survey since 2007.

Store characteristics

The local store is an important source of employment for people living in remote communities. ALPA and Outback Stores both have a policy of employing local Aboriginal people to work in their stores. The proportion of Aboriginal employees was higher in stores that were either owned (85%) or managed (79%) by a store group (e.g. ALPA and Outback Stores) than in other stores. 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.

Fruit and vegetable 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.[8] 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 Aboriginal people than non-Aboriginal people.[9;10] Furthermore, Aboriginal people living in remote areas are more likely to report no usual daily intake of fruit and vegetables compared to Aboriginal people living in non-remote areas.[10] 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 and there is a focus on data regarding fruit and vegetables in this survey.

Whilst there are no recommendations as to the number of varieties of fruit and vegetables that should be available in remote stores, a diet including a variety of vegetables, legumes and fruits is recommended to ensure an adequate intake of a wide range of vitamins, minerals, dietary fibres and beneficial, non-nutrient phytochemicals.[8] In a technical document produced to inform the revision of the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating, the authors divide the 'vegetable and legumes' group into 5 sub-groups (green and brassica, orange vegetables, starchy vegetables, other vegetables and legumes) in recognition of the variability in energy and nutrient content across this group.[4] This classification was therefore adopted in this survey to assess the adequacy of the range of vegetables available in remotes stores.

In this survey (2012), with the exception of one store that had no fresh vegetables in the 'orange' subgroup, all stores had varieties of fresh vegetables in each of the non-legume subgroups of the 'vegetable and legumes' group (see table 4). Stores also typically had at least one variety of dried or canned legumes. In addition to fresh produce, stores also carry a range of dried, canned and frozen fruit and vegetables. It is also encouraging to note that, since 2000, there has been an upward trend in the average number of varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables available in remote stores. This data indicates that for people living in remote communities there is an increasing choice of fresh fruit and vegetables and those who wish to purchase fresh produce have access to an acceptable range.

Basket costs

The cost of the basket of foods decreased in 2012 compared to 2011 in all regions, and was evident in both district centre supermarkets and remote stores. The decrease is primarily due to a decrease in the 'fruit' portion of the basket, the 'fruit' portion of the basket was unusually high in 2011 due to the high cost of bananas following the destruction of banana crops in Queensland by Cyclone Yasi in early 2011[7].

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 (2012) the cost of the food basket in remote stores was 49% higher than in the Darwin supermarket and 21% higher than the Darwin corner store. This differential is greater than in previous surveys (see figure 9). Compared to 2011, there was a 7% decrease in the average cost of the food basket in remote stores and a 13% decrease in the Darwin supermarket.

In 2012, 35% of income was required to purchase the food basket in remote stores. 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 2012.

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 2012, the price of the tobacco products increased the most (141%); 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 and coke also increased more than the food basket. In contrast, it is encouraging to note that the price of the 'healthier' meal items (meat and vegetable canned meal and apple) both increased less than the family basket between 2000 and 2012.

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. 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 2011 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.

The survey is conducted over a three month period, during this time frame there is the potential for variation in the prices of fresh fruit and vegetables. To reduce the impact of this variation surveyors are encouraged to conduct the district centre supermarket surveys in the middle of the survey period as these stores are used as a benchmark.

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 2012 found that the cost of the basket of goods decreased by 2.2% across all the surveyed regions, primarily driven by a reduction in fruit and vegetable prices. In contrast to this survey, the *Grocery Price Survey* found the cheapest average cost was in the Darwin supermarkets, followed by Alice Springs.[12] This survey found the supermarket surveyed in Alice Springs to be the cheapest, followed by the Darwin Supermarket.

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.[13] 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

Eighty-two remote stores were surveyed in the NT between April and June 2012. 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 2012 survey showed that the cost of the food basket was, on average, 49% more expensive in remote stores than in a Darwin supermarket. The proportion of income required to purchase the food basket in remote communities was 35% compared to 23% for the same basket of foods from a Darwin supermarket. The cost of the food basket decreased by 7% in remote stores and 13% in the Darwin supermarket between

2011 and 2012. A decrease in the ‘fruit’ portion of the basket accounted for the majority of the decrease in the food basket price.

Positive trends are emerging from the MBS results, particularly regarding the availability and variety of some healthy foods, for example, the number of varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables has increased in remote stores from 2000 to 2012. Additionally, there has been a greater increase in the cost of some ‘unhealthy’ products than some healthier products in remote stores.

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 2012 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 – 2012*

Grandmother aged 60		
	Remote Area Allowance	$18.20
	Aged Pension - Single rate	$695.30
Father aged 35		
	New Start	$442.00
	Remote Area Allowance (includes the children)	$37.50
	Pharmaceutical Allowance	$3.10
Mother aged 33		
	Parenting Payment	$442.00
	Family Tax Benefit A	
	- for two children under 13 yrs	$329.28
	- for one child 13-15 yrs	$214.06
	Remote Area Allowance	$15.60
	Pharmaceutical Allowance	$3.10
TOTAL		**$2200.14**

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

*Source: www.centrelink.gov.au, 13/06/2012

Appendix C: Survey results of the 2012 Market Basket Survey by district and community

Alice Springs

	Store Ownership*	Nutrition policy	Store committee	Number Aboriginal staff	Number non Aboriginal staff	Cost of basket	Availability	Fresh fruit variety	Fresh fruit quality	Fruit price	Fresh vegetable variety	Fresh vegetable quality	Vegetable price	Population
	P	Unknown	Yes	0	4	$1,102	93%	1	1 good	$371	3	2 good, 1 fair	$215	Unknown
	P	Yes	No	0	1	$960	98%	5	1 good, 4 fair	$355	14	7 good, 7 fair	$236	Unknown
	P	No	No	0	1	$893	98%	3	2 good, 1 fair	$221	14	8 good, 5 fair, 1 poor	$245	Unknown
	P	No	Unknown	0	3	$891	90%	3	3 good	$236	8	4 good, 4 fair	$201	Unknown
	C	No	Yes	5	3	$849	98%	6	5 good, 1 fair	$212	16	13 good, 3 fair	$212	Unknown
	C	Yes	Yes	6	4	$841	98%	10	7 good, 1 fair, 2 poor	$228	21	16 good, 4 fair, 1 poor	$205	100-399
	C	Yes	Yes	3	3	$824	88%	12	10 good, 2 fair,	$224	22	21 good, 1 not rated	$138	100-399
	C	No	Yes	17	4	$820	98%	18	15 good, 2 fair, 1 poor	$276	19	18 good, 1 fair	$156	100-399
	O	Unknown	No	0	1	$814	98%	4	3 good, 1 fair	$240	13	7 good, 6 fair	$167	100-399
	C	No	Yes	2	1	$801	93%	6	4 good, 2 fair	$181	9	6 good, 3 fair	$207	100-399
	C	No	Yes	4	1	$773	100%	9	8 good, 1 fair	$186	13	13 good	$161	Unknown
	C	No	Yes	0	5	$757	95%	7	7 good	$142	12	8 good, 1 fair, 3 poor	$137	Unknown
	C	Yes	Yes	4	1	$749	95%	10	10 good	$164	12	10 good, 2 fair	$150	Unknown
	C	Unknown	Yes	1	2	$749	100%	8	7 good, 1 fair	$164	10	10 good	$132	800-1599
	P	No	No	0	2	$736	93%	2	1 good, 1 fair	$173	9	4 good, 5 fair	$135	100-399
	C	No	Yes	2	2	$728	100%	13	7 good, 6 fair	$163	22	6 good, 14 fair, 2 poor	$158	Unknown
	MSG	Yes	Yes	4	1	$720	98%	11	5 good, 6 fair	$158	17	11 good, 6 fair	$142	100-399
	C	Yes	Yes	4	2	$698	100%	7	5 good, 2 fair	$156	20	10 good, 9 fair, 1 poor	$148	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	5	2	$697	100%	8	7 good, 1 fair	$161	16	16 good	$147	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	6	2	$690	98%	15	12 good, 3 fair	$136	20	20 good	$135	100-399
	MSG	Yes	No	2	2	$686	98%	14	11 good, 3 fair	$182	17	1 good, 3 fair, 1 poor, 1 rotten	$133	100-399
	C	No	Unknown	3	3	$676	98%	2	1 good, 1 poor	$160	6	15 good, 1 fair	$124	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	2	1	$668	100%	9	6 good, 3 fair	$163	16	7 good, 5 fair	$136	100-399
	P	Yes	Yes	4	6	$661	100%	5	1 good, 3 fair, 1 poor	$159	12	20 good, 1 fair	$140	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	4	3	$660	98%	13	13 good	$147	21	17 good, 4 fair	$133	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Yes	8	2	$648	100%	13	10 good, 2 fair, 1 poor	$143	21	18 good, 1 fair	$117	400-799
	C	Yes	Yes	0	2	$646	100%	13	13 good	$152	19	20 good	$132	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	2	2	$645	98%	13	12 good, 1 fair	$135	20	17 good	$122	100-399
	C	No	Yes	0	0	$642	100%	10	10 good	$155	17	4 good, 3 fair, 2 poor, 1 rotten	$120	800-1599
	C	Yes	Yes	4	7	$636	95%	10	1 good, 7 fair, 2 poor	$156	10	23 good, 2 fair	$110	400-799

	P	No	Yes	2	18	$636	100%	20	12 good, 7 fair, 1 poor	$145	25	23 good, 2 fair	$114	Unknown
Remote Stores Average				**3**	**3**	**$751**	**97%**	**9**		**$189**	**15**		**$155**	
Supermarket						$485				$114			$97	
Corner Store						$600				$138			$92	

*C = owned and managed by community or Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal staff	Number non Aboriginal staff	Cost of basket	Availability	Fruit (fresh) variety	Fruit (fresh) quality	Fruit price	Vegetable (fresh) variety	Vegetable (fresh) quality	Vegetable price	Population
	P	No	No	0	1	$895	100%	17	16 good, 1 fair	$242	27	24 good, 3 fair	$158	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	2	1	$694	95%	5	3 good, 2 fair	$166	12	9 good, 3 fair	$149	Unknown
	MSG	Yes	Yes	4	4	$677	93%	17	17 good	$166	23	23 good	$125	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	4	2	$658	100%	8	8 good	$153	12	12 good	$100	100-399
Remote Stores Average				**3**	**2**	**$731**	**97%**	**12**		**$182**	**19**		**$133**	
Supermarket						$604				$129			$101	
Corner Store						-				-			-	

*C = owned and managed by community or Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal staff	Number non Aboriginal staff	Cost of basket	Availability	Fruit (fresh) variety	Fruit (fresh) quality	Fruit price	Vegetable (fresh) variety	Vegetable (fresh) quality	Vegetable price	Population
	C	No	Yes	10	2	$877	100%	9	7 good, 1 fair, 1 poor	$242	21	13 good, 6 fair, 2 poor	$169	400-799
	C	No	No	0	0	$865	100%	7	6 good, 1 fair	$201	19	17 good, 2 fair,	$193	400-799
	C	No	No	3	1	$825	95%	7	2 good, 5 fair	$222	15	7 good, 7 fair, 1 poor	$162	100-399
	C	Unknown	Unknown	3	2	$810	95%	5	5 good	$175	16	16 good	$226	Unknown
	P	No	No	2	4	$808	80%	5	4 good, 1 fair	$211	9	7 good, 2 fair	$186	800-1599
	P	No	No	0	5	$797	100%	10	6 good, 3 fair, 1 poor	$234	19	16 good, 3 fair	$169	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Yes	14	2	$788	100%	17	14 good, 3 fair	$178	18	15 good, 3 fair	$149	Unknown
	MSG	Yes	No	12	2	$751	93%	20	16 good, 4 fair	$160	27	25 good, 2 fair	$141	400-799
	OSG	Yes	Yes	9	1	$745	100%	10	9 good, 1 fair	$157	15	10 good, 5 fair	$148	Unknown
	C	No	Yes	4	18	$742	98%	19	19 good	$162	29	29 good	$133	≥1600
	C	No	Yes	8	5	$736	95%	13	12 good, 1 fair	$148	26	20 good, 5 fair, 1 poor	$146	≥1600
	C	No	Unknown	20	5	$722	95%	16	13 good, 2 fair, 1 poor	$163	26	26 good	$137	≥1600
	MSG	Yes	No	15	3	$708	98%	13	13 good	$151	28	26 good, 2 fair	$121	800-1599
	C	No	Yes	21	2	$706	100%	13	6 good, 5 fair, 2 poor	$185	19	10 good, 8 fair, 1 poor	$120	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Yes	26	1	$704	100%	17	14 good, 3 fair	$150	18	17 good, 1 fair	$135	400-799
	P	No	No	0	2	$637	93%	6	5 good, 1 fair	$142	14	12 good, 2 fair	$134	100-399
	P	No	No	4	20	$615	100%	17	17 good	$137	33	31 good, 2 fair	$113	800-1599
Remote Stores Average				9	4	**$755**	**97%**	**12**		**$178**	**21**		**$152**	
Supermarket						$511				$128			$103	
Corner Store						$631				$148			$140	

*C = owned and managed by community or Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal staff	Number non Aboriginal staff	Cost of basket	Availability	Fruit (fresh) variety	Fruit (fresh) quality	Fruit price	Vegetable (fresh) variety	Vegetable (fresh) quality	Vegetable price	Population
	O	No	No	2	9	$998	95%	11	6 good, 5 fair	$257	18	12 good, 6 fair	$185	800-1599
	L	No	No	0	0	$885	90%	8	5 good, 3 fair	$220	5	4 good, 1 poor	$212	≥1600
	MSG	Yes	Yes	5	2	$860	95%	9	8 good, 1 not rated	$182	18	16 good, 2 fair	$168	800-1599
	OSG	Yes	Yes	42	7	$771	98%	10	9 good, 1 fair	$158	26	21 good, 5 fair	$144	≥1600
	OSG	Yes	Yes	20	5	$757	100%	14	10 good, 3 fair, 1 poor	$176	26	21 good, 4 fair, 1 poor	$149	800-1599
	OSG	Yes	Yes	24	4	$755	98%	12	11 good, 1 fair	$165	24	23 good, 1 fair	$135	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Yes	14	3	$747	95%	12	10 good, 2 fair	$151	16	14 good, 1 fair, 1 poor	$136	800-1599
	OSG	Yes	Yes	0	0	$746	100%	17	17 good	$150	20	20 good	$156	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Yes	6	3	$743	98%	6	4 good, 2 fair	$159	11	6 good, 4 fair, 1 rotten	$128	400-799
		Unknown	Unknown	0	0	$654	90%			$125			$130	Unknown
Remote Stores Average				**11**	**3**	**$792**	**96%**	**11**		**$174**	**18**		**$154**	
Supermarket						$527				$126			$118	
Corner Store						$991				$233			$173	

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Katherine

	Store Ownership*	Nutrition policy	Store committee	Number Aboriginal staff	Number non Aboriginal staff	Cost of basket	Availability	Fruit (fresh) variety	Fruit (fresh) quality	Fruit price	Vegetable (fresh) variety	Vegetable (fresh) quality	Vegetable price	Population
	P	Yes	No	0	10	$998	95%	8	7 good, 1 fair,	$237	15	15 good,	$194	<100
	P	No	No	0	2	$967	80%	6	6 good,	$220	13	13 good,	$229	Unknown
	P	No	Yes	3	4	$939	83%	4	4 good,	$238	5	4 good, 1 fair,	$265	100-399
	C	No	Yes	2	2	$865	93%	11	11 good,	$191	15	13 good, 2 fair,	$209	100-399
	C	Yes	Yes	7	10	$856	100%	10	10 good,	$214	24	24 good,	$156	Unknown
	C	Unknown	Yes	1	1	$825	98%	8	8 good,	$213	14	14 good,	$189	100-399
	P	No	No	5	5	$783	95%	11	6 good, 5 fair,	$197	19	15 good, 4 fair,	$161	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	10	3	$732	88%	3	3 good,	$164	13	11 good, 2 poor,	$137	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	11	1	$729	100%	11	10 good, 1 fair,	$147	15	14 good, 1 fair,	$153	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Unknown	5	2	$729	100%	12	12 good,	$152	17	17 good,	$160	100-399
	P	No	No	0	5	$727	100%	11	9 good, 2 fair,	$173	19	15 good, 4 fair,	$130	100-399
	P	No	No	0	4	$723	98%	3	1 good, 1 fair, 1 poor,	$164	9	7 good, 2 fair,	$171	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	11	2	$718	95%	14	14 good,	$187	15	15 good,	$131	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	8	2	$712	93%	10	10 good	$154	18	13 good, 5 fair,	$138	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	7	0	$711	95%	11	11 good	$168	18	17 good, 1 fair,	$138	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	10	5	$702	98%	16	15 good, 1 fair	$169	23	20 good, 2 fair, 1 poor,	$132	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	4	2	$699	100%	13	13 good	$163	20	12 good, 8 fair,	$140	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	1	1	$696	98%	9	6 good, 3 fair	$146	14	8 good, 6 fair,	$139	Unknown
	MSG	Yes	Yes	24	5	$672	95%	12	12 good	$138	18	9 good, 7 fair, 2 poor,	$139	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Unknown	6	2	$590	100%	8	8 good	$123	9	8 good, 1 fair,	$149	Unknown
Remote Stores Average				**6**	**3**	**$769**	**95%**	**10**		**$178**	**16**		**$163**	
Supermarket						$542				$155			$111	
Corner Store						$628				$164			$125	

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