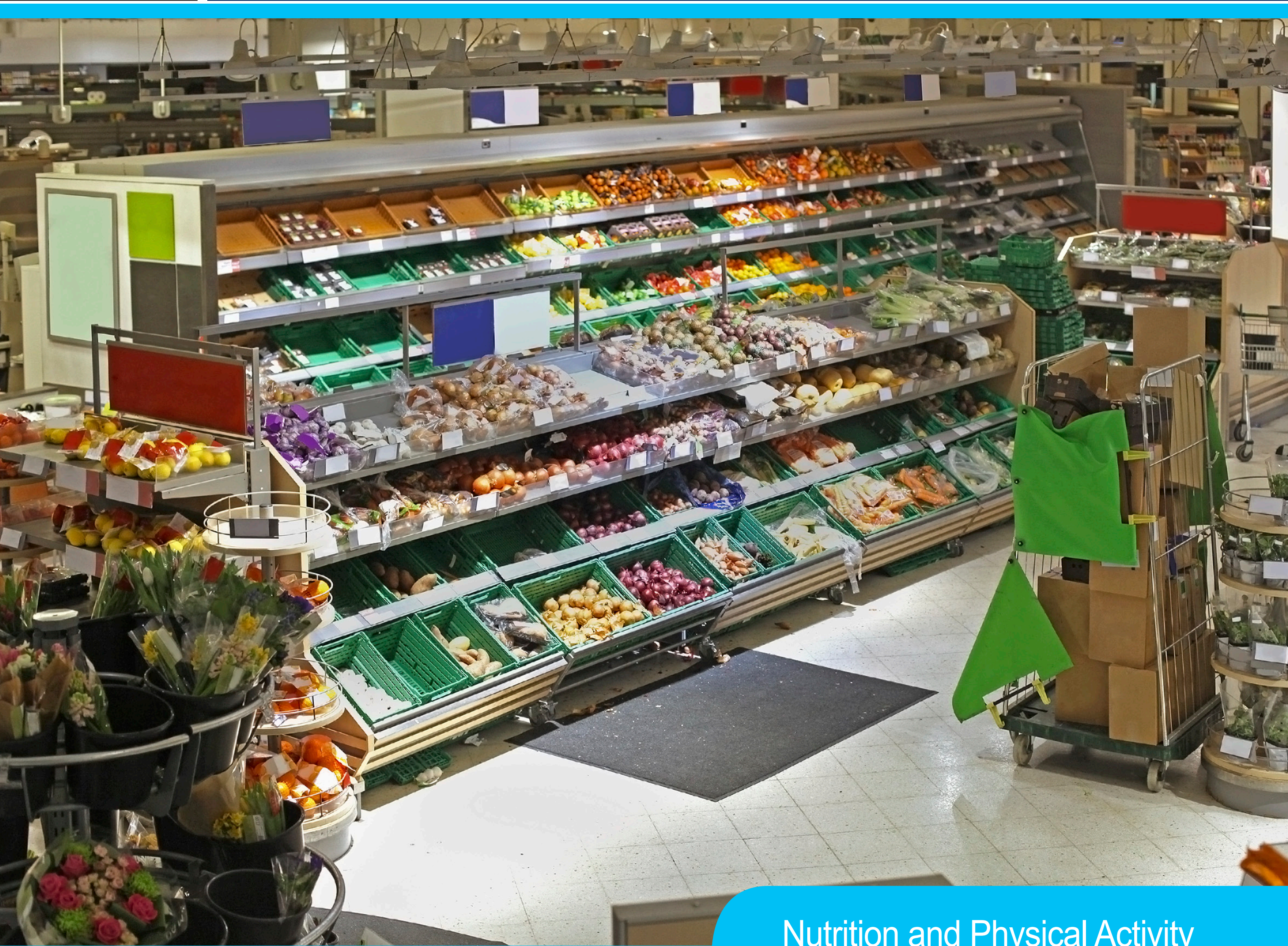
Northern Territory Government



Nutrition and Physical Activity

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Market Basket Survey 2014

www.nt.gov.au/health

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, 2014.

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 2014 Market Basket Survey (MBS) is the fifteenth annual survey of remote stores in the Northern Territory (NT).
- Seventy-nine remote stores were surveyed, a supermarket and corner store in the major town/city in each of the district centres were also surveyed to allow comparison of prices.
- Stores were surveyed in February and March during the 'wet season'. This period is earlier than usual and was conducted at this time to determine what impact, it any, the wet season has on availability and cost of food in remote stores.
- 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 $824 in remote stores, $726 in district centre corner stores and $558 in district centre supermarkets.
- East Arnhem was the most expensive remote district ($866) and Darwin the least expensive ($795).
- On average, the food basket in remote stores was 53% more expensive than in the Darwin supermarket and 13% higher than the average of the district centre corner stores.
- There was no impact on either the cost of perishable goods or availability of fresh fruit and vegetables that could be attributed to the wet season.
- Compared to 2013, the average cost of the food basket increased by 5% in remote stores and less than 1% in district centre supermarkets.
- The proportion of family income required to purchase the food basket was 34% in remote stores. This is the same as the 2013 survey. The proportion of family income required to purchase the food basket in a Darwin supermarket was 22%. This was a decrease from the 2013 survey, where the proportion of income was 23%.
- 62% of people employed in remote community stores were Aboriginal*.
- 87% of fresh fruits and 88% of fresh vegetables were rated to be of 'good' quality.
- Overall, there has been an increase in the average number of varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables from 2000 to 2014. The average number of varieties of fresh fruit available was highest in 2014 when there was an average of 12 varieties of fruit available. The average number of varieties of fresh vegetables available was highest in the 2009 and 2011 to 2014 when there was an average of 17 varieties of vegetables available.
- On average 95% 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.

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 player in the health of Aboriginal people living in remote areas.

In 1995 the then Northern Territory (NT) Department of Health and Community Services released 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 survey of a sample of remote stores was conducted in 1998 and the first Territory wide survey was done in 2000.

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 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.

A basket of foods was identified that would feed this family for a fortnight; modifications were made to the basket in the 2013 survey to ensure foods were in line with contemporary purchasing patterns. Modifications to the basket were made in consultation with Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA) and Outback Stores. Details of both the original basket and revised baskets are shown in Appendix A.

The NUTTAB 2010[2] database and Nutrient Reference Values for Australia and New Zealand[3] were used to determine the quantities of each food required to provide 95% of the family’s energy requirements and 100% of selected nutrient* requirements for a fortnight.

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.

* Nutrients selected were those used in modelling for the development of the current Australian Guide to Healthy Eating.[4]

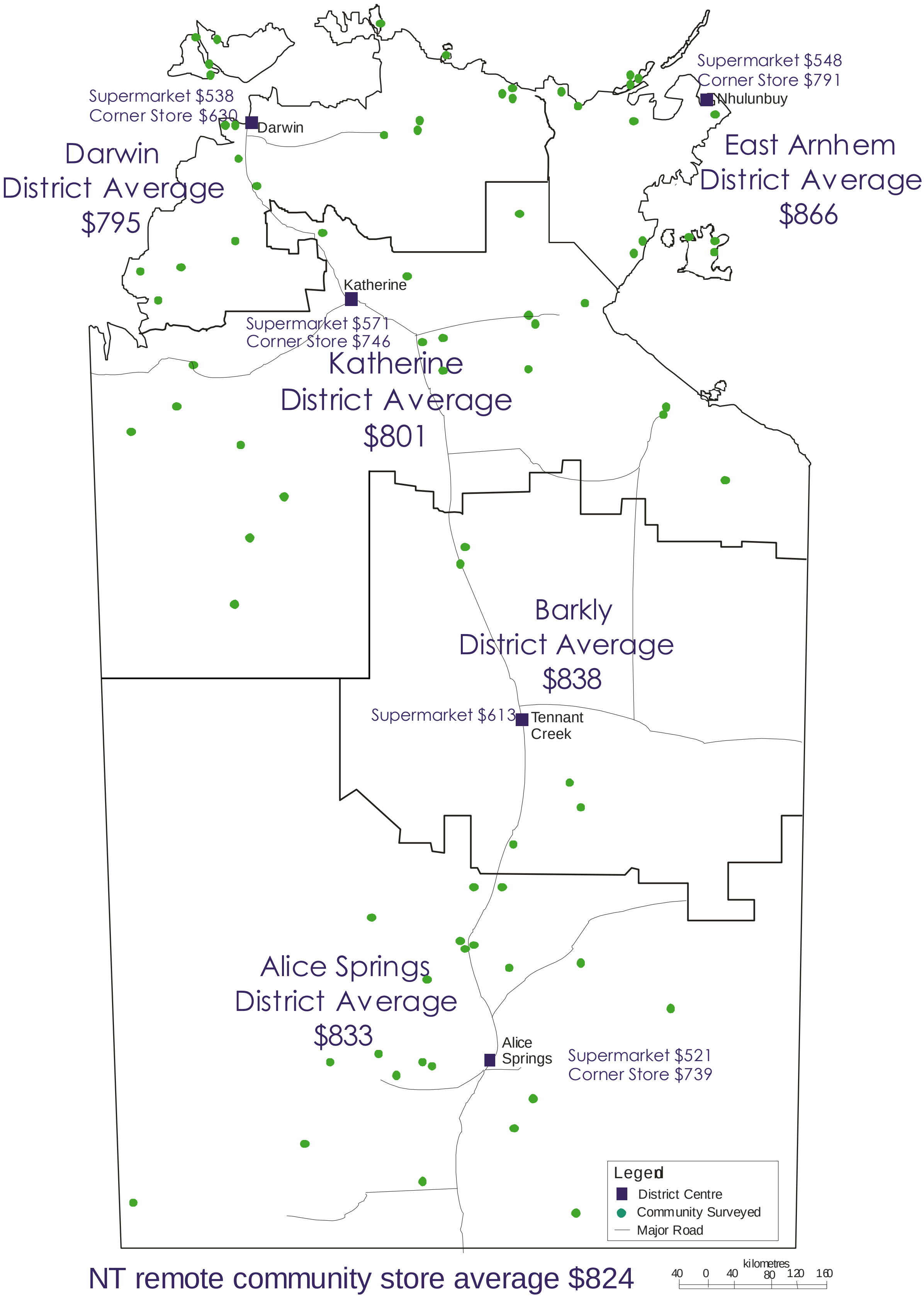


Figure 1: Location of stores surveyed and cost of food basket in each district

2. *Results*

2.1. 2014 survey

Store characteristics

Seventy-nine remote stores were surveyed between February and March 2014. 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, 2014

	Alice Springs	**Barkly**	**Darwin**	**East Arnhem**	**Katherine**	**Total remote stores**
Ownership*						
Owned and managed by community or Aboriginal corporation	7	1	8	1	3	20
Privately owned	6	2	6	4	7	25
Owned by store group (e.g. ALPA)	0	0	1	4	0	5
Managed by store group (e.g. Outback Stores, ALPA)	8	3	5	2	10	26
Leased from community	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/Not recorded	0	0	0	1	0	3
Management characteristics						
Store committee[#]	13	5	13	5	15	51
Nutrition policy[#]	11	4	8	6	11	40
Number of stores	**21**	**6**	**20**	**12**	**20**	**79**

- 25% (20) of stores were owned and managed by the community or a local Aboriginal corporation.
- 39% (31) of stores were either owned or managed by a store group [e.g. Arnhem Land Progress Association (ALPA) and Outback Stores].
- 32% (25) of stores were privately owned.
- 64% (51) of stores had a store committee[#].
- 51% (40) of stores stated that they had a nutrition policy[#].

Table 2: Store Licensing by district, remote stores, 2014

	Alice Springs	**Barkly**	**Darwin**	**East Arnhem**	**Katherine**	**Total remote stores**
Licensed	18	6	17	11	13	65
Not licensed	3	0	3	1	7	14
Number of stores	**21**	**6**	**20**	**12**	**20**	**79**

- 82% (65) of stores were licensed by the Australian Government, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

[#] 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, 2014

	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)	Other/not recorded	All remote stores
Number stores with Aboriginal employees	17	9	5	28	0	59
Number of Aboriginal employees	122	17	133	207	0	479
Total employees	203	140	150	267	9	769
Per cent Aboriginal employees	60%	12%	89%	78%	0%	62%
Stores with no employment information recorded	0	2	0	0	0	2
Number of stores	**20**	**25**	**5**	**28**	**1**	**79**

- 62% of employees in the remote stores surveyed were Aboriginal.
- The proportion of Aboriginal employees was highest in stores that were either owned (89%) or managed (78%) by a store group (e.g. ALPA and Outback Stores).

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 4: Number of varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables by district, remote stores, 2014

	Alice Springs	Barkly	Darwin	East Arnhem	Katherine	All remote stores
Average number of fresh fruit varieties	9	12	14	12	12	12
Range	3 - 17	7 - 16	0 - 22	3 - 21	2 - 21	2 – 22
Average number of fresh vegetable varieties	14	17	22	15	17	17
Range	4 - 20	12 - 23	2- 33	2 - 30	7 - 31	2– 33
Number of stores	**21**	**6**	**20**	**12**	**20**	**79**

- On average there were 12 different varieties of fresh fruit and 17 different varieties of fresh vegetables in remote stores.

Table 5: Number of varieties of vegetable (fresh, frozen, canned) by subgroups* by district, remote stores, 2014

	Alice Springs	Barkly	Darwin	East Arnhem	Katherine	All remote stores
Average number of green and brassica vegetable varieties	5	6	8	6	6	6
Range	1 - 7	5 - 7	2 - 10	1 - 10	3 - 11	4 - 11
Average number of orange vegetable varieties	2	2	2	2	2	2
Range	2 - 2	1 - 2	2 - 2	2 - 2	2 - 2	1 - 2
Average number of starchy vegetable varieties	3	3	3	3	3	3
Range	2 - 3	2 - 3	2 - 4	2 - 5	2 - 4	2 - 5
Average number of other vegetable varieties	10	14	18	13	15	15
Range	5- 14	12 - 18	7 - 24	8 - 21	9- 23	9 - 23
Number of stores	21	6	20	12	20	79

- At least 1 variety of vegetable (fresh, frozen or canned) were available in each of the vegetable subgroups shown in the table above.
- In addition to the vegetable subgroups shown above all stores had at least one variety of legumes and/or baked beans available (data was not collected on the number of varieties of legumes available).

Table 6: Quality# of fresh fruit by district, remote stores, 2014

	Alice Springs	Barkly	Darwin	East Arnhem	Katherine	All remote Stores
Good	84%	82%	91%	95%	85%	88%
Fair	15%	18%	8%	5%	14%	11%
Poor	2%	-	1%	-	1%	1%
Rotten	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not rated	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 7: Quality# of fresh vegetables by district, remote stores, 2014

	Alice Springs	Barkly	Darwin	East Arnhem	Katherine	All remote stores
Good	86%	79%	90%	85%	85%	86%
Fair	12%	16%	8%	15%	13%	12%
Poor	1%	2%	2%	-	2%	1%
Rotten	1%	-	-	1%	-	-
Not rated	-	3%	-	-	-	-

- Overall, 88% of fresh fruit and 86% of fresh vegetables were rated to be of 'good' quality on the day of survey.
- East Arnhem remote stores had the highest proportion of 'good' fresh fruit and Darwin remote stores had the highest proportion of 'good' fresh vegetables on the day of survey.

* Vegetable subgroups were adopted from the food modelling system used to inform the revision of the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating.[5]

\# 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 8: Usual availability of food basket items by district, remote stores, 2014

	Alice Springs	Barkly	Darwin	East Arnhem	Katherine	All remote stores
Average availability of prices of items in food basket	93%	96%	94%	95%	94%	95%
Range	80 - 100%	93 - 98%	56 - 100%	88 - 98%	78 - 100%	56 - 100%
Number of stores with 100% of items	3	0	4	0	4	20
Number of stores	**21**	**6**	**20**	**12**	**20**	**79**

- On average 95% of items were available, or usually available in remote stores.
- 25% (20) of the 79 remote stores had, or usually had, all the items available in their store.

Figure 2: Cost of the food basket by district, type of store, 2014

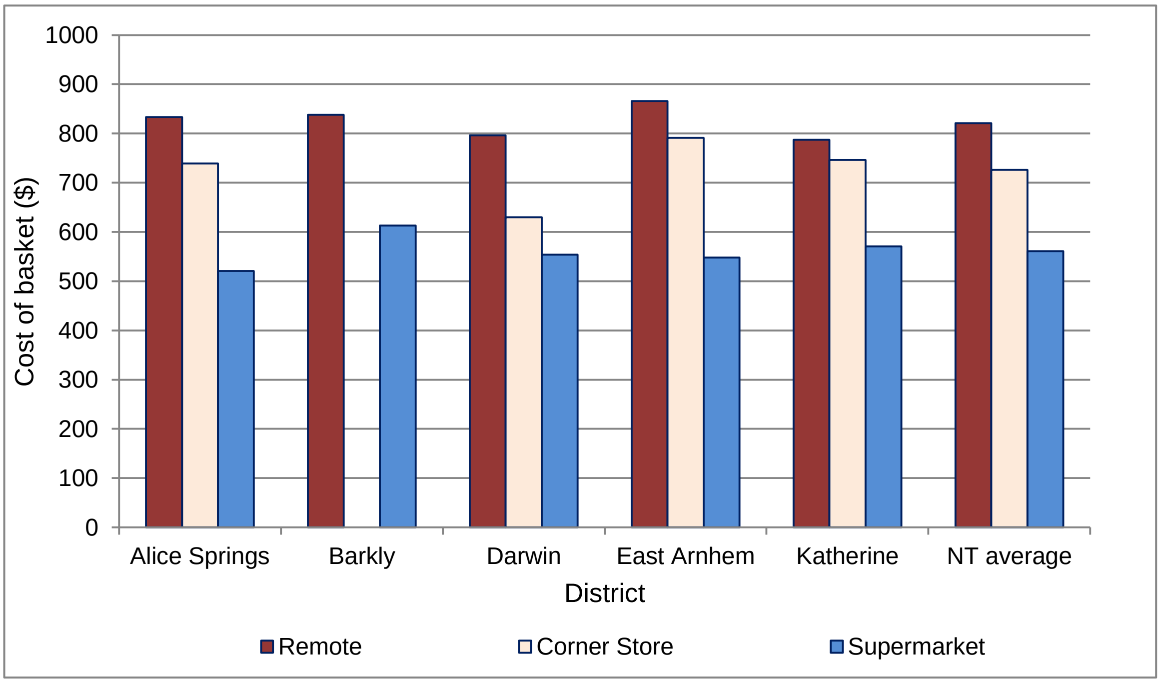


Table 9: Cost[#] of food basket by district, supermarkets, corner stores and remote stores, 2014

	Alice Springs	Barkly	Darwin	East Arnhem	Katherine	NT Average
Bread & cereals						
Supermarket	$99	$98	$99	$92	$98	$97
Corner store	$121	-	$90	$116	$111	$110
Remote stores	$119	$133	$120	$125	$119	$121
Fruit						
Supermarket	$123	$137	$133	$125	$173	$138
Corner store	$154	-	$146	$219	$190	$177
Remote stores	$210	$197	$182	$203	$211	$201
Vegetables						
Supermarket	$110	$107	$115	$128	$113	$115
Corner store	$148	-	$143	$139	$147	$144
Remote stores	$179	$169	$168	$190	$166	$174
Meat & alternative						
Supermarket	$88	$107	$86	$97	$84	$92
Corner store	$122	-	$97	$113	$109	$110
Remote stores	$123	$130	$123	$132	$122	$125
Dairy						
Supermarket	$80	$133	$83	$84	$82	$92
Corner store	$160	-	$123	$145	$153	$145
Remote stores	$161	$168	$164	$174	$157	$163
Other foods						
Supermarket	$21	$31	$22	$22	$22	$24
Corner store	$33	-	$31	$59	$36	$40
Remote stores	$41	$42	$37	$42	$39	$40
Total basket						
Supermarket	**$521**	**$613**	**$538**	**$548**	**$571**	**$558**
Corner store	**$739**	**-**	**$630**	**$791**	**$746**	**$726**
Remote stores	**$833**	**$838**	**$795**	**$866**	**$814**	**$824**
Number remote stores surveyed	**21**	**6**	**20**	**12**	**20**	**79**

Supermarket

- Barkly had the most expensive supermarket food basket ($613) and Alice Springs had the cheapest ($521).

Corner store

- East Arnhem had the most expensive corner store food basket ($791) and Darwin had the cheapest ($630).
- The average cost of the basket in the corner stores was 30% higher than in the district centre supermarkets ($726 compared to $558).

Remote stores

- East Arnhem was the most expensive district ($866) and Darwin the least expensive ($795).
- The food basket in remote stores was 13% higher than the district centre corner stores ($824 compared to $726) and 48% higher than the district centre supermarkets ($824 compared to $558).

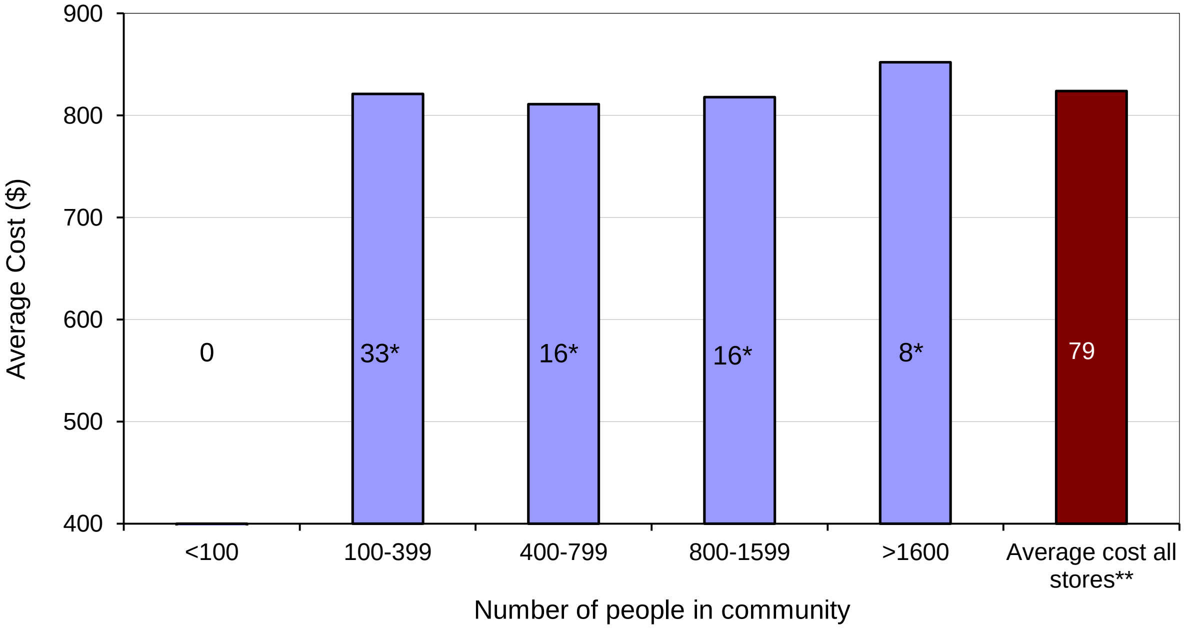
[#] Due to rounding of numbers the sum of food groups does not equal the total basket cost in some instances in Table 9.

Table 10: Percentage difference in the cost of the food basket between remote stores and a Darwin supermarket by district, 2014

	Alice Springs	Barkly *	Darwin	East Arnhem	Katherine	Average NT remote stores
Bread & cereals	20%	35%	21%	36%	21%	**23%**
Fruit	57%	47%	37%	52%	58%	**51%**
Vegetables	55%	46%	46%	65%	44%	**51%**
Meat & alternative	43%	51%	43%	54%	42%	**45%**
Dairy	96%	103%	98%	111%	90%	**98%**
Other foods	86%	89%	66%	88%	77%	**79%**
Total basket	**55%**	**56%**	**48%**	**61%**	**51%**	**53%**

- The cost of the food basket was 53% higher in remote stores than a Darwin supermarket.
- East Arnhem remote stores were the most expensive, being 61% more expensive than the Darwin supermarket.

Figure 3: Average cost of the food basket by community population, 2014



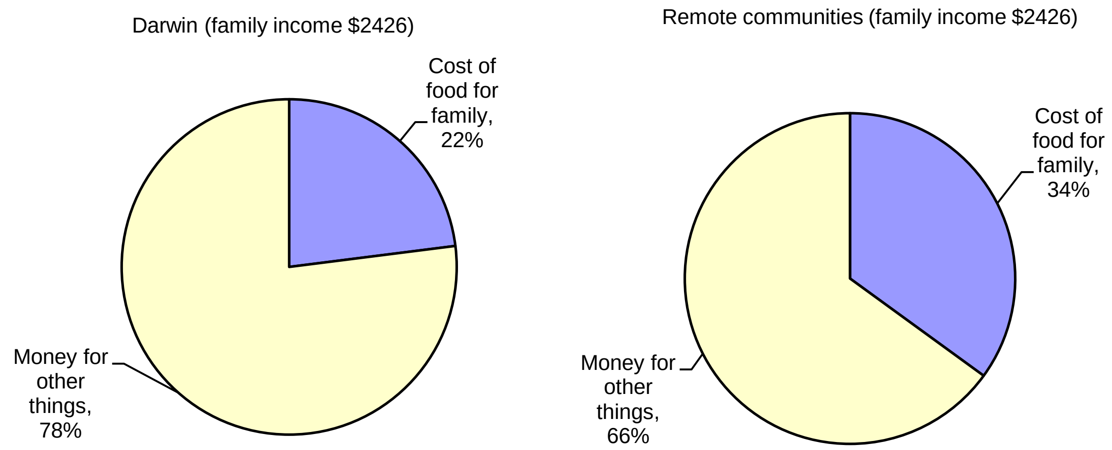
***Number ofstores in that population category**

****Population unknown in 6 stores**

In this survey the average cost of the food basket was similar across all community population groupings.

Relation between family income and the cost of the food basket

Figure 4: Proportion of income needed to purchase of the food basket, 2014



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 $22 on the food basket, whereas a family in a remote community will spend approximately $34.

2.2. Cost compared to 2013 survey

Table 11: Variation in the cost of the food basket groups by district, remote stores, 2013 to 2014

	Alice Springs	Barkly	Darwin	East Arnhem	Katherine	NT remote store average
Bread & cereals	0%	8%	-1%	0%	-4%	0%
Fruit	8%	10%	1%	21%	15%	9%
Vegetables	6%	22%	8%	30%	0%	8%
Meat & alternative	4%	9%	5%	1%	1%	4%
Dairy	3%	11%	6%	6%	2%	5%
Other foods	10%	2%	-5%	0%	-2%	1%
Total basket	**5%**	**11%**	**3%**	**11%**	**3%**	**5%**

- Overall, the cost of the food basket increased by 5% in remote stores from 2013 to 2014.
- East Arnhem and Barkly remote stores had the largest increase in the cost of the basket (11%).
- The 'fruit' portion of the basket had the greatest cost increase from 2013 to 2014 (7%).

Table 12: Variation in the cost of the food groups in the basket by district, supermarkets, 2013 to 2014

	Alice Springs	Barkly	Darwin	East Arnhem	Katherine	NT supermarket average
Bread & cereals	3%	-14%	-5%	2%	-5%	-4%
Fruit	18%	19%	6%	-23%	19%	6%
Vegetables	15%	0%	16%	0%	-3%	5%
Meat & alternative	-4%	4%	2%	-1%	-15%	-3%
Dairy	-3%	-1%	-3%	-5%	0%	-2%
Other foods	-9%	-3%	-10%	1%	-10%	-6%
Total basket	**6%**	**1%**	**3%**	**-7%**	**0%**	**<1%**

- The cost of the food basket increased in all supermarkets except East Arnhem from 2013 to 2014.
- The average increase in district centre supermarkets was less than 1%.
- The largest increase was in the Alice Springs supermarket (6%).
- Four portions of the basket (‘bread and cereals’, ‘meat and alternative’, ‘dairy’ and ‘other foods’) decreased and two portions of the basket (‘fruit’ and ‘vegetables’) increased from 2013 to 2014.
- The increase was greatest in the ‘fruit’ portion of the basket (6%).

2.3. Comparison of surveys, 2000 – 2014

Store Characteristics

Figure 5: Store governance and employment characteristics, remote stores, 2000 - 2014

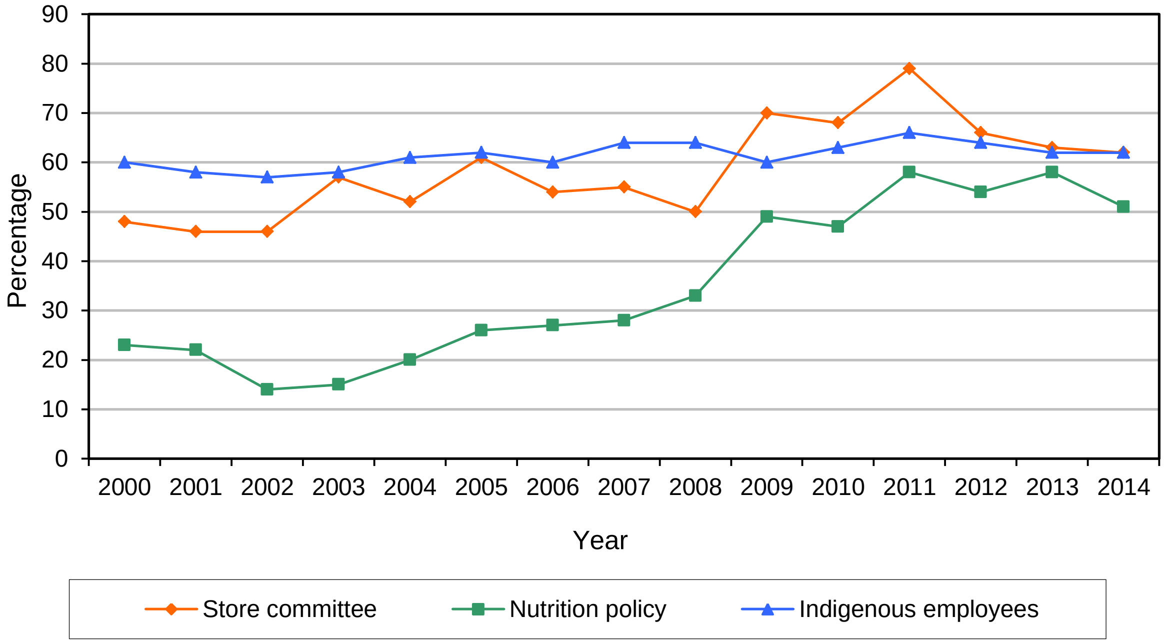


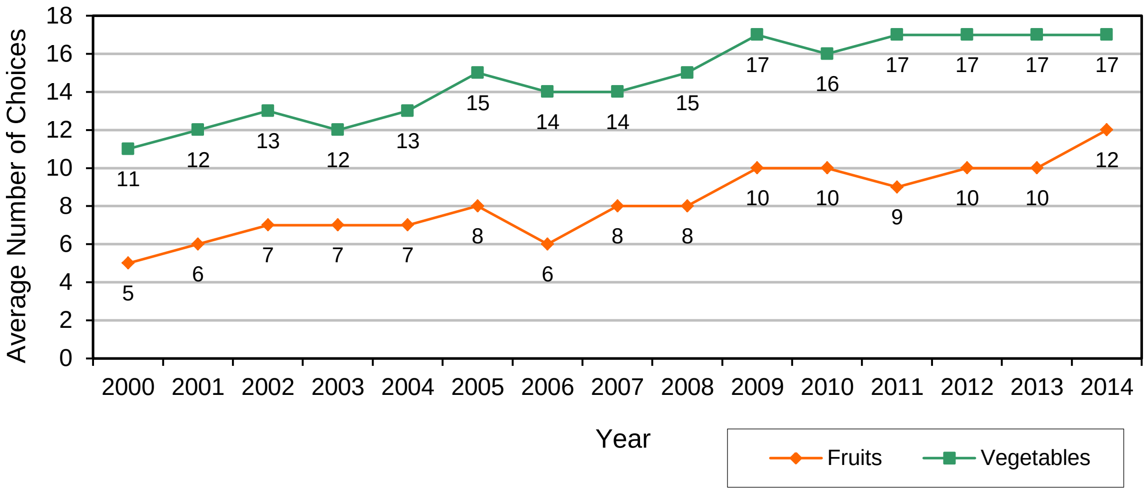
Table 13: Store governance and employment characteristics, remote stores, 2000 - 2014

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
2013	63%	58%	62%	72
2014	62%	51%	62%	79

- There was a marked increase in the percentage of stores with a 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 2014.

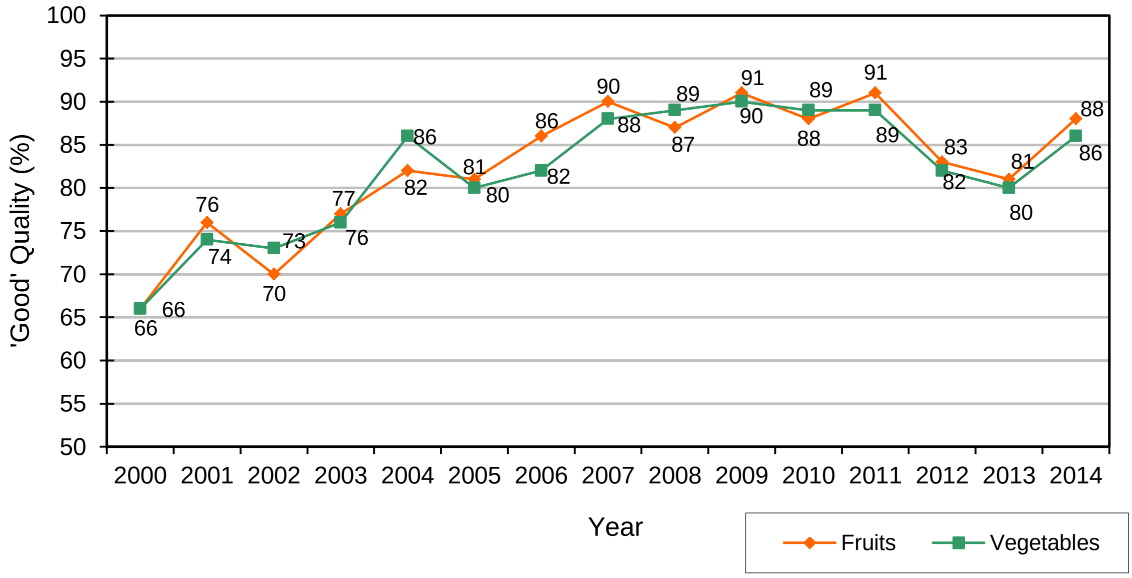
Food variety and quality

Figure 6: Average number of varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables, remote stores, 2000 - 2014



Overall, since 2000 there has been an increase in the average number of varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables available in remote stores. The average number of varieties of fresh fruit available was highest in 2014 when there was an average of 12 varieties of fruit available. The average number of varieties of fresh vegetables available was highest in the 2009 and 2011 to 2014 when there was an average of 17 varieties of vegetables available.

Figure 7: Percentage of fresh fruit and vegetables rated as 'good', remote stores, 2000 - 2014



Whilst there was a decrease in the proportion of fresh fruit and vegetables rated to be of 'good' quality in the 2012 and 2013 surveys, this proportion has generally increased from 2000 to 2014.

Department of Health is a Smoke Free Workplace

Figure 8: Average number of varieties of selected foodstuffs available, remote stores, 2000 - 2014

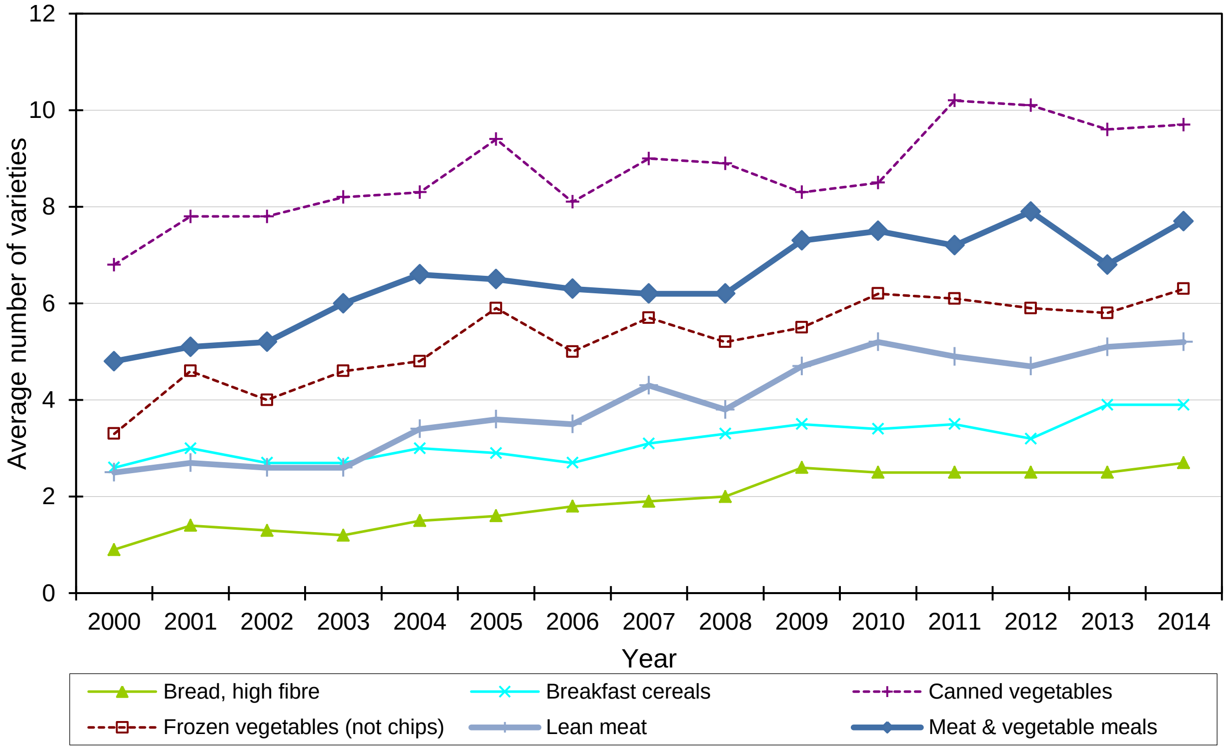


Table 14: Average number of varieties of selected foodstuffs available, remote stores, 2000 - 2014

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
2013	2.5	3.9	9.6	5.8	5.1	6.8
2014	2.7	3.9	9.7	6.3	5.2	7.3

- The average number of varieties of all the foods shown above increased in remote stores from 2000 to 2014.
- The average numbers of varieties of high fibre bread, frozen vegetables and lean were the highest in the 2014 survey.

Price comparisons

Figure 9: Average cost of the food basket by district, supermarkets, corner stores and remote stores, 2000 – 2014

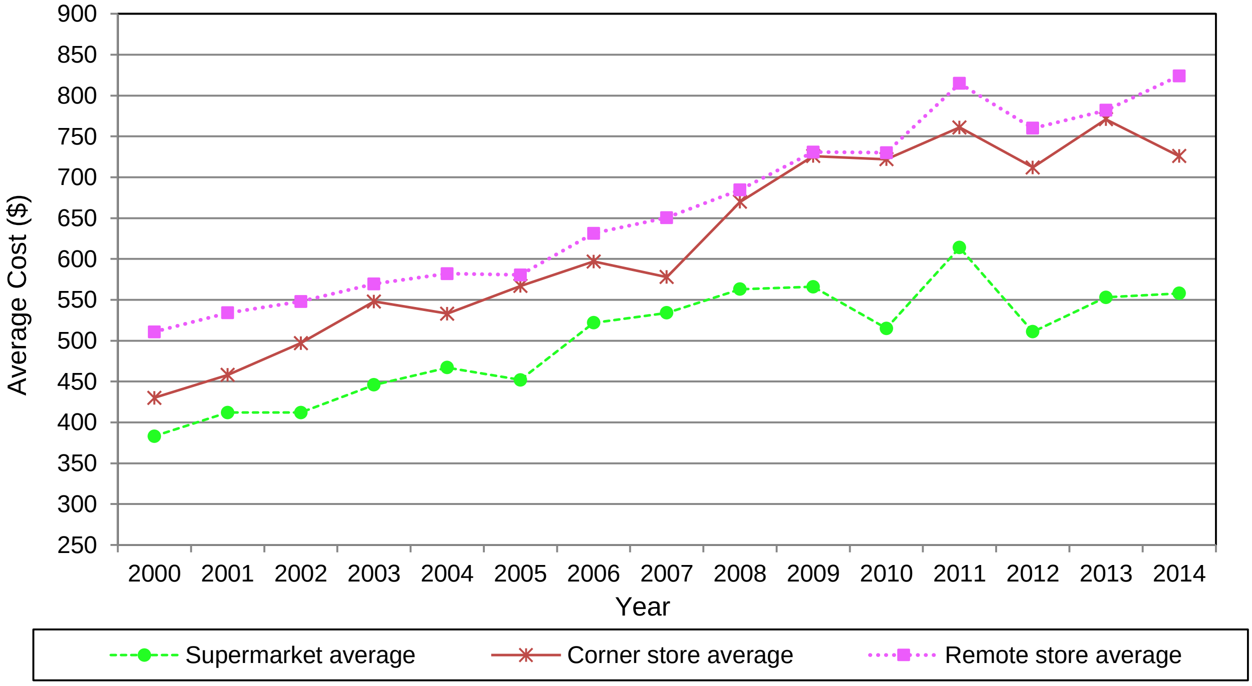


Table 15: Average cost of the food basket by district, remote stores, 2000 - 2014

Year	Supermarket average	Corner store average	Remote store average
2000*	$383	$430	$511
2001*	$412	$458	$534
2002*	$412	$497	$548
2003*	$446	$548	$570
2004*	$467	$533	$582
2005*	$452	$567	$580
2006*	$522	$597	$631
2007*	$534	$578	$651
2008*	$563	$670	$685
2009	$566	$726	$731
2010	$515	$722	$730
2011	$614	$761	$815
2012	$534	$712	$760
2013	$553	$771	$782
2014	$558	$726	$824

- The average cost of the food basket in district centre supermarkets increased by 45% ($383 to $558) from 2000 to 2014
- The average cost of the food basket in district centre corner stores increased by 68% ($430 to $726) from 2000 to 2014.
- The average cost of the food basket in remote stores increased by 61% ($511 to $824) from 2000 to 2014.

* 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 10: Cost of the food basket, remote stores compared with Darwin supermarket, 2000 - 2014

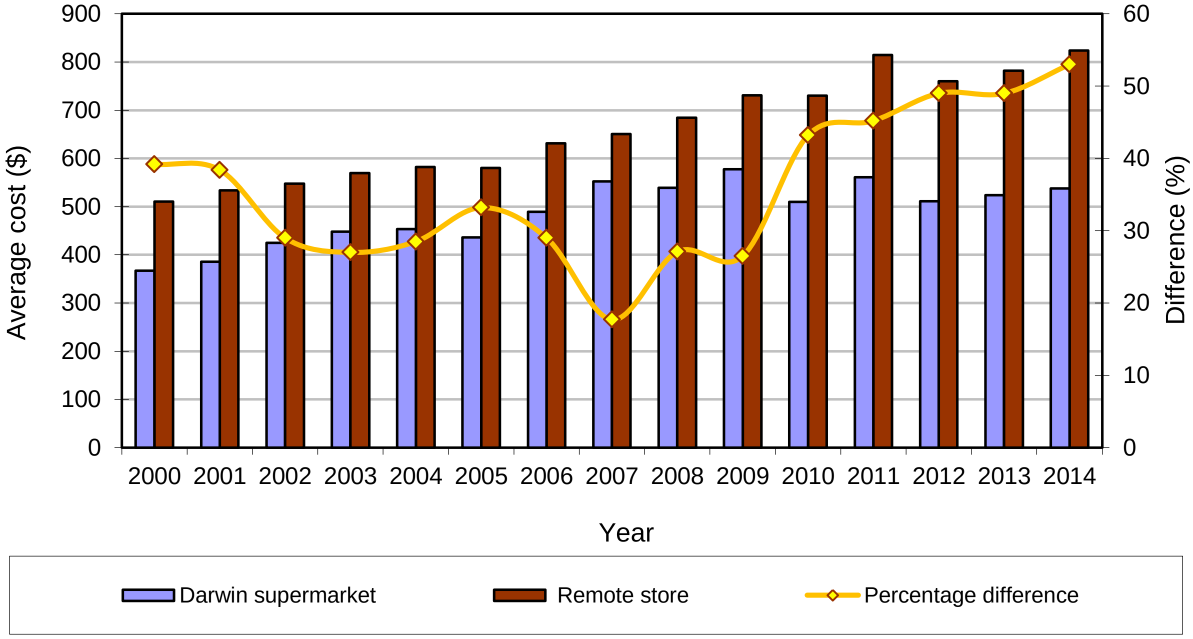


Table 16: Cost of the food basket, remote stores compared with Darwin supermarket, 2000 - 2014

Year	Darwin supermarket	Remote store average*	Percentage 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%
2013	$524	$782	49%
2014	$538	$824	53%

- The cost difference between remote stores and the Darwin supermarket was greatest in 2014 when the food basket cost 53% 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 - 2014

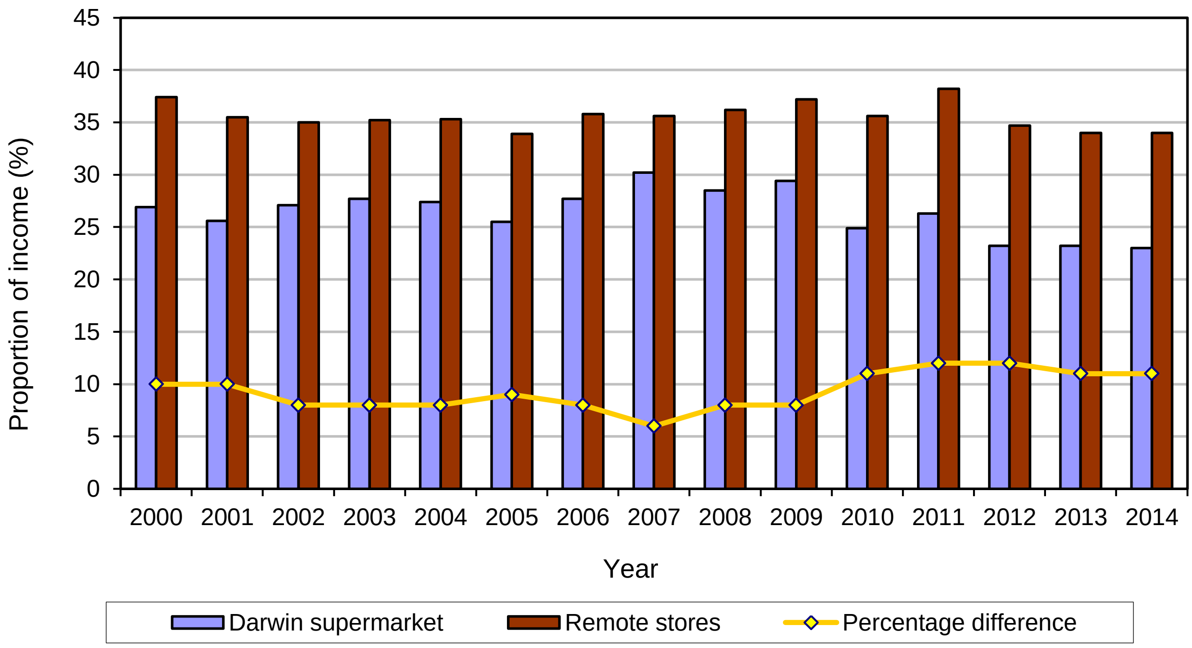


Table 17: Proportion of income needed to purchase the food basket, remote stores compared to Darwin supermarket, 2000 - 2014

Year	Proportion of income Darwin Supermarket	Proportion of income remote stores	Percentage 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%
2013	23%	34%	11%
2014	23%	34%	11%

- The proportion of income required to purchase the food basket from a Darwin supermarket was the lowest in 2012 to 2014 (23%) and highest in 2007 (30%).
- The proportion of income required to purchase the food basket from remote community stores was lowest in 2005, 2103 and 2014 (34%) and highest in 2011 (38%).
- 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 - 2014

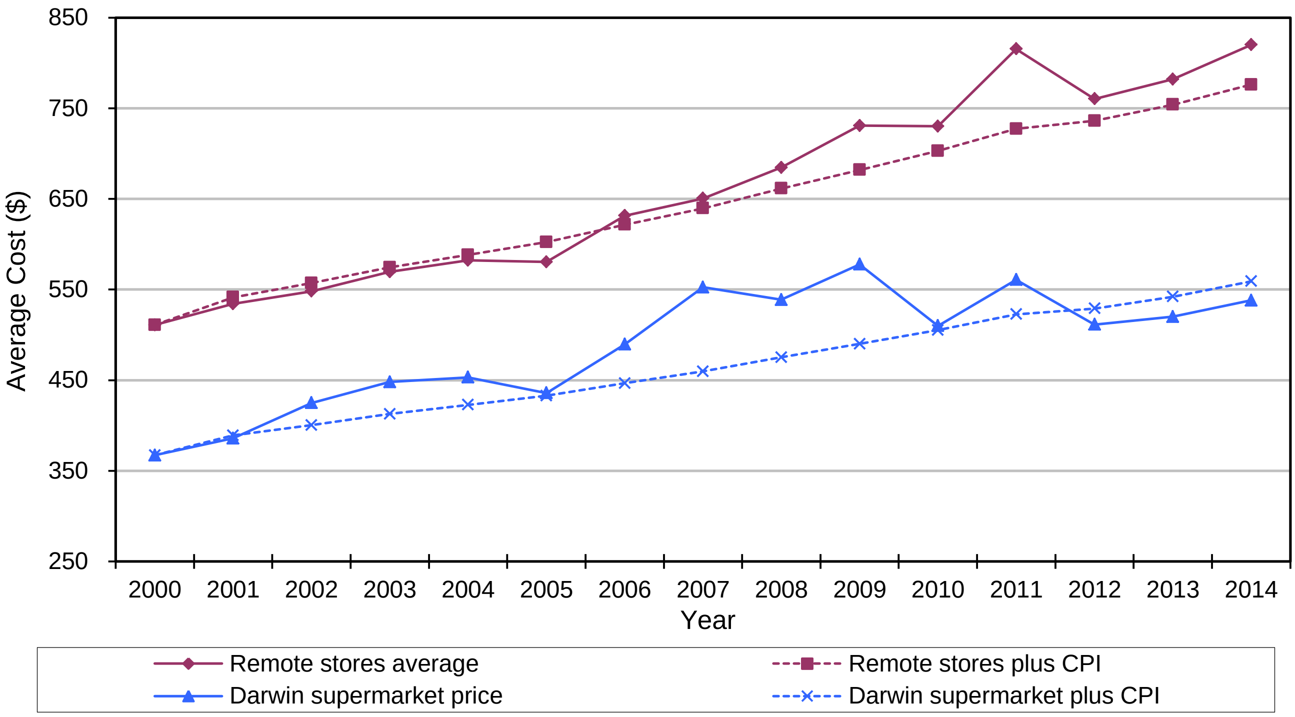


Table 18: Cost of the food basket compared with projected cost of the food basket with annual CPI increases, remote stores and Darwin supermarket, 2000 - 2014

Year	Remote stores average*	Remote stores plus CPI	Darwin supermarket	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%
2013	$782	$754	$520	$542	2.4%
2014	$824	$776	$538	$549	3.0%

- In remote stores the actual cost of the food basket was similar to the projected cost of the basket using annual CPI[6] rates, except for 2011 when the actual cost was notably higher than expected.
- In the Darwin supermarket the actual cost tended to be above projected cost between 2006 and 2009.

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

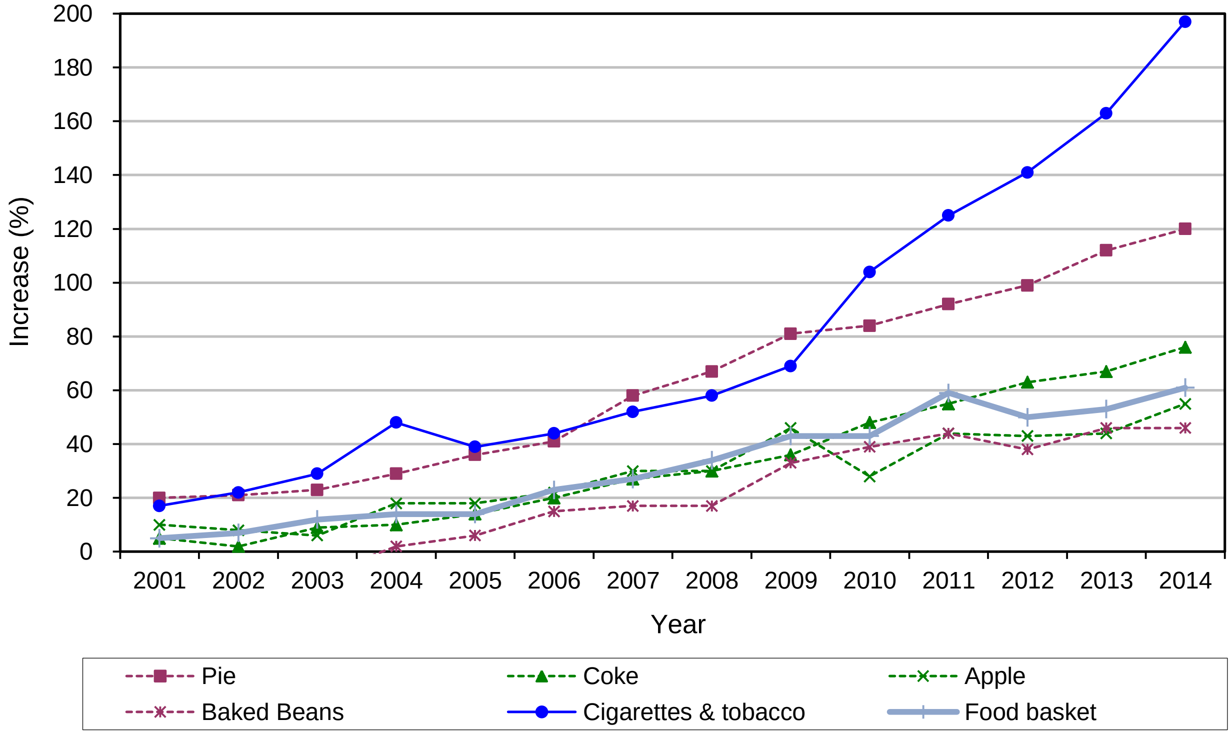


Table 19: Cost increase (in per cent) of selected store items and food basket from 2000 remote stores

Year	Pie	Coke	Apple	Baked Beans	Cigarettes & tobacco	Food basket
2001	20%	5%	10%	-3%	17%	5%
2002	21%	2%	8%	-7%	22%	7%
2003	23%	9%	6%	-9%	29%	12%
2004	29%	10%	18%	2%	48%	14%
2005	36%	14%	18%	6%	39%	14%
2006	41%	20%	22%	15%	44%	23%
2007	58%	27%	30%	17%	52%	27%
2008	67%	30%	30%	17%	58%	34%
2009	81%	36%	46%	33%	69%	43%
2010	84%	48%	28%	39%	104%	43%
2011	92%	55%	44%	44%	125%	59%
2012	99%	64%	42%	38%	141%	50%
2013	112%	67%	44%	46%	163%	53%
2014	120%	76%	55%	46%	197%	61%

- Cigarettes and tobacco had the greatest percentage cost increase from 2000 to 2014 (197%).
- The price of the ‘healthier’ meal items (baked beans 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 2014.

Figure 14: Cost of food basket groups 2000-2014, remote stores

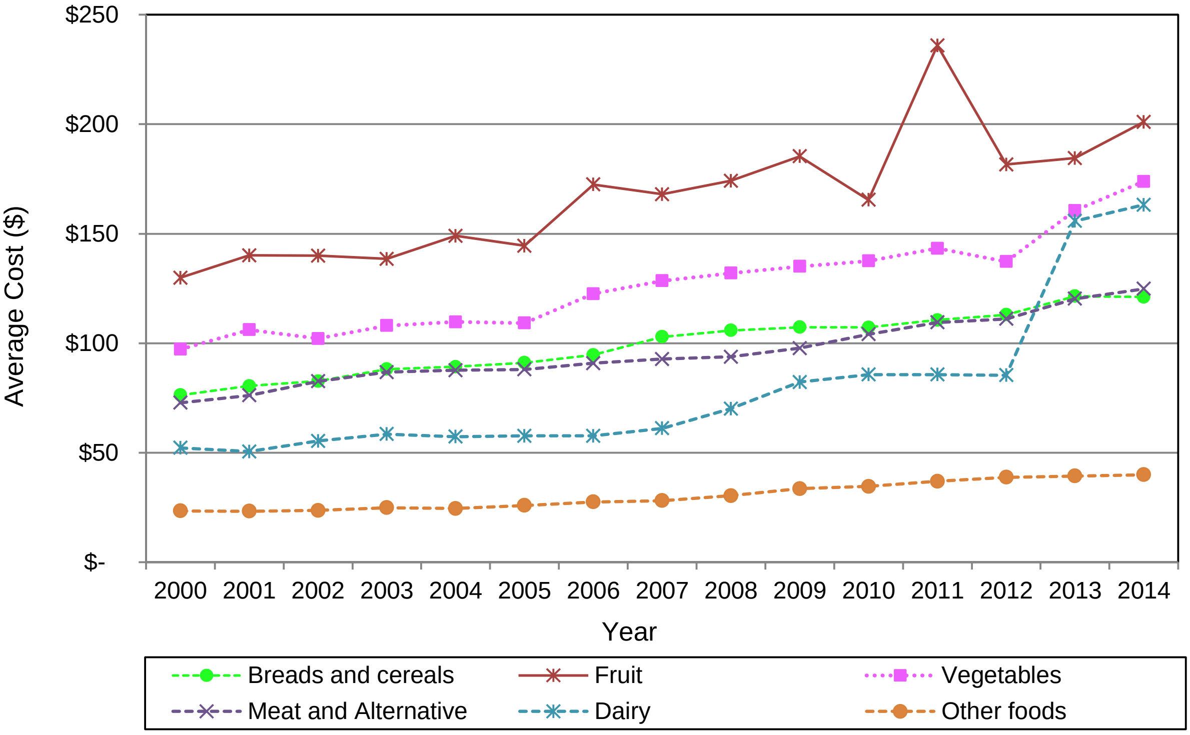


Table 20: Cost of food basket groups 2000-2014, remote stores and Darwin supermarket

Year	Bread & cereals	Fruit	Vegetables	Meat & alternative	Dairy	Other foods
2000	$76	$30	$97	$73	$52	$23
2001	$80	$140	$106	$76	$51	$23
2002	$83	$140	$102	$83	$55	$24
2003	$88	$139	$108	$87	$59	$25
2004	$89	$149	$110	$88	$57	$25
2005	$91	$144	$109	$88	$58	$26
2006	$95	$173	$123	$91	$58	$28
2007	$103	$168	$129	$93	$61	$28
2008	$106	$174	$132	$94	$70	$30
2009	$107	$185	$135	$98	$82	$34
2010	$107	$165	$138	$104	$86	$35
2011	$111	$236	$143	$109	$86	$37
2012	$113	$182	$137	$111	$85	$39
2013	$121	$185	$161	$120	$156	$39
2014	$121	$201	$174	$125	$163	$40

- A large increase is evident in the cost of the 'fruit' portion of the basket from 2010 to 2011 and the 'milk' portion of the basket from 2012 to 2013.

Wet season survey, effect on cost of perishables in remote stores

The 2014 survey is the only survey to be done during the 'wet season' which has the potential to impact on the cost of perishable goods due to road closures and a reliance on air freight.

Figure 16: Cost of perishables and non-perishables 2000-2014, remote stores

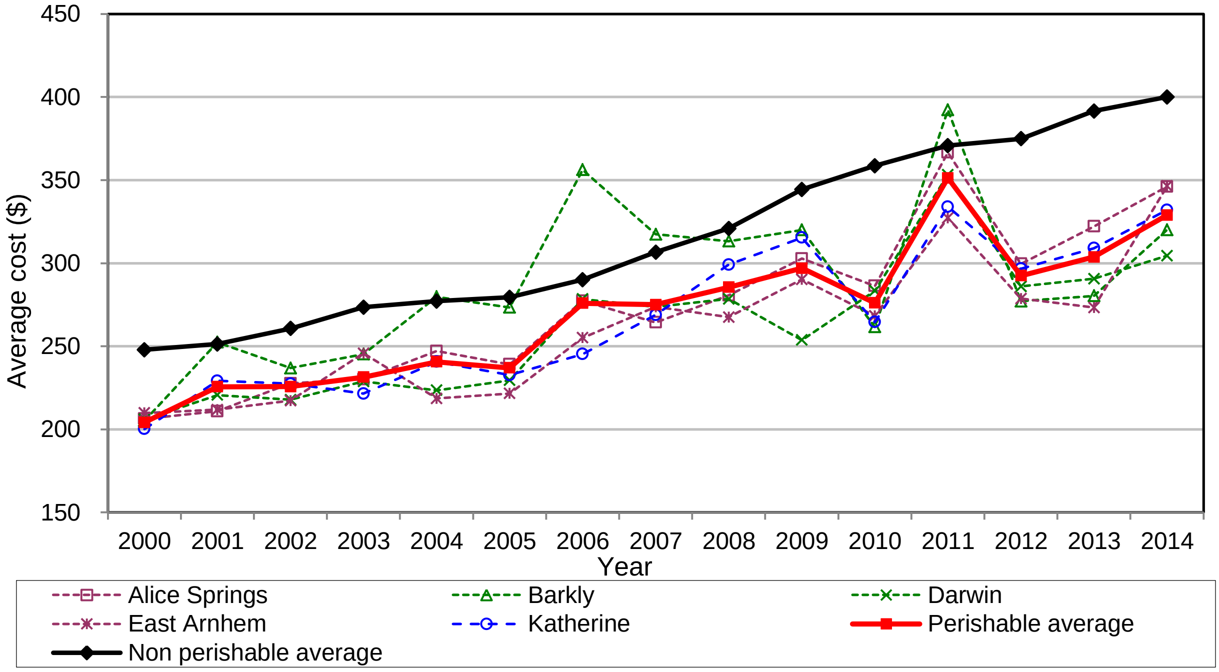


Table 21: Cost of perishables and noon-perishables 2000-2014, remote stores

Year	Alice Springs	Barkly	Darwin	East Arnhem	Katherine	Average perishable (% change)	Average non-perishable (% change)
2000	$206	$205	$206	$210	$200	$204	$248
2001	$211	$252	$221	$212	$229	$226 (11%)	$251 (1%)
2002	$228	$237	$218	$217	$227	$226 (0%)	$261 (4%)
2003	$230	$245	$229	$246	$221	$231 (2%)	$273 (5%)
2004	$247	$280	$223	$219	$241	$241 (4%)	$277 (1%)
2005	$239	$273	$229	$222	$233	$237 (-1%)	$279 (1%)
2006	$277	$356	$278	$255	$245	$276 (16%)	$290 (4%)
2007	$264	$317	$274	$274	$269	$275 (0%)	$307 (6%)
2008	$281	$313	$278	$267	$299	$286 (4%)	$321 (5%)
2009	$303	$320	$254	$290	$315	$297 (4%)	$344 (7%)
2010	$286	$262	$283	$268	$265	$276 (-7%)	$359 (4%)
2011	$367	$392	$353	$327	$334	$351 (27%)	$371 (3%)
2012	$300	$277	$286	$279	$297	$292 (-17%)	$375 (1%)
2013	$322	$280	$291	$273	$309	$304 (4%)	$392 (4%)
2014*	$346	$320	$304	$346	$332	$329 (8%)	$400 (2%)

- The annual percentage change in the cost of perishable goods varied from a decrease of 17% to an increase of 27% in remote stores.
- The annual percentage change in the cost of non-perishable goods ranged from a 1% increase to a 7% increase.

* The 2014 survey was the only survey to be conducted in the Northern Territory 'wet season'.

3. *Discussion*

The 2014 MBS is the fifteenth annual survey of remote community stores in the Northern Territory and is the first survey to be conducted in the northern Australian wet season. It has been suggested that the wet season may have an impact on the availability of products and price of goods, in particular perishable goods, due to transport issues associated with periods of heavy rain.[7] It was for this reason that the 2104 survey was conducted during February and March, rather than the usual survey period of April to June.

External influences on the survey

Since the first MBS was conducted in 2000, two initiatives by the Australian Government have the potential to impact on results of this survey.

Outback Stores - In 2007 the Australian Government established 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. In this survey Outback Stores managed 18 stores.

Licensing of remote stores - In late 2007 the Australian Government commenced licensing of remote stores 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. In this survey 82% (65) of the stores were licensed.

The introduction of both stores licensing and 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 (89%) or managed (78%) 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 vegetables has a protective effect against cardiovascular disease and recent research has strengthened evidence of the beneficial effects of various non-starchy vegetables in reducing risk of some site-specific cancers.[8] The Australian Health Survey (2011-12) reports that only 8% of Australians are consuming the recommended amounts of vegetables and that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote areas are less likely to have an adequate intake of vegetables with only 6% reporting an adequate intake.[9;10]

There is also strong evidence that including fruit in the diet is protective against cardiovascular disease and there is a protective effect against a number of chronic diseases when vegetables and fruit have been studied together. The National Health Survey 2011-12 reported that 54% of Australian adults and 56% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in remote areas are eating an adequate amount of fruit. [9;10]

For these reasons there is a focus on data regarding fruit and vegetable quality and variety in this survey. Whilst there are no recommendations as to the number of varieties of vegetables that should be available in remote stores, a diet including daily consumption of a variety of vegetables, including different types and colours and legumes/beans is recommended.[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.[5] This classification was therefore adopted in this survey to assess the adequacy of the range of vegetables available in remotes stores. The authors of this document did not feel it necessary to divide fruit into subgroups and because there is no evidence of health advantages of specific subgroups of fruits, the fruit group was not divided into subgroups for further analysis in this report.

Results from this survey (2014) indicate that people living in remote communities are able to purchase vegetables from each of the subgroups in their community stores. 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 and in 2014 there was, on average, of 2 more varieties of fresh fruit available than in any previous year. 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 in remote areas increased in 2014 compared to 2013 in all regions. The Darwin supermarket was used as the benchmark against which remote community stores are compared 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 53% difference in cost between remote stores and the Darwin supermarket was the greatest of all years. In 2014 the 'dairy' portion of the basket accounted for 28% ($80) of the price difference between the remote stores and the Darwin supermarket. The 'dairy' portion of the basket is predominately milk products (powdered and UHT). In 2014, the difference in price between the Darwin supermarket and remote stores was much greater for milk products than most other products. Given that the dairy portion of the basket includes more than 50 litres of milk, this price difference has had a substantial influence on the overall basket cost.

In 2014, 34% 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 2014.

A number of items were selected for analysis to determine if the price of a 'healthier' meal (baked beans and apple) had increased more or less than an 'unhealthy' meal (pie and coke) and tobacco products. Between 2000 and 2014, the price of the tobacco products increased the most (197%); 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 (baked beans and apple) both increased less than the family basket between 2000 and 2014.

Impact of wet season

The 'wet' season spans from November until April and affects the tropical 'Top End' of the Northern Territory. The wet season is characterised by high humidity and heavy monsoonal rains which can cause significant localised and/or widespread flooding. Subsequent closures of roads cause many stores to become reliant on expensive airfreight for perishable supplies.[7] Stores in the Darwin, East Arnhem and Katherine districts are the districts most likely to be affected by increased transport costs during the wet season.

Figure 16 shows the annual increase or decrease in the cost of perishable goods from 2000 to 2014. A large increase in the cost of perishable goods is evident in 2011. The major driver of this increase was an increase in the cost of bananas following the destruction of banana crops in Queensland by Cyclone Yasi in early 2011. There is an eight percent increase in the cost of the perishable goods in remote stores in 2014 compared to 2013, which is within the range of annual variation that can be seen between previous year's surveys. The results, therefore do not demonstrate a significant increase in the cost of perishable goods that could be attributed to the wet season.

Results from the 2014 survey indicate that there is no reduction in the number of varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables available in remote stores during the wet season. The average number of fresh vegetables was as high as previous dry season surveys and the average number of fresh fruit varieties available was higher than in previous surveys. The increase in varieties of fruit may be a reflection of an increase in varieties of fruit at this time of the year, e.g. a range of stone fruits are usually available at the time the survey was conducted in 2014.

Limitations of the survey

When interpreting the results of this survey, a number of issues must be considered, these include the following -

- 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;
- 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 (32). 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 2014 survey was conducted over a two 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;
- When conducting the survey, surveyors are asked to record the price of a particular brand and pack size for each item in the food basket. For occasions when the standard brand and pack size is not available, surveyors are provided a set of instructions on which alternative product to price (ie a different brand or pack size). Therefore on some occasions a larger or smaller pack size (of different brand) may be priced in a remote store compared to the district centre stores. This may have a notable impact on the price of the basket in some individual store reports, however the impact will be lessened with the aggregated data provided in this report.

4. Summary

Seventy-one remote stores were surveyed in the NT between February and March 2014. 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 2014 survey showed that the cost of the food basket was, on average, 52% more expensive in remote stores than in a Darwin supermarket. The proportion of income required to purchase the food basket in remote communities was 34% compared to 23% for the same basket of foods from a Darwin supermarket. The cost of the food basket increased by 5% in remote stores and 3% in the Darwin supermarket between 2013 and 2014.

The 2014 survey was the first survey to be conducted during the Northern Australian wet season. The results indicated that there was no reduction in the variety of fresh fruit and vegetables available in remote stores during the wet season and that there was no unusually high increase in the cost of perishables compared to previous surveys conducted in the dry season.

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 2014. Additionally, there has been a greater increase in the cost of some ‘unhealthy’ products compared to 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 2014 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 x 680g 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 x 150g apples
Oranges	55 x oranges
Bananas	55 x 124g 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 cans
Canned Peas	6 x 420g cans
Frozen Mixed Vegetables	5 x 500g bags
Baked Beans	7 x 425g cans
Meat & Alternatives	
Corned Beef	7 x 340g cans
Meat and Vegetables	7 x 450g cans
Fresh/Frozen meat	1.5 kilograms
Fresh/Frozen Chicken Drumsticks	1 kilogram
Eggs, 55's	1 dozen
Dairy	
Powdered Milk	4 x 900g packets
UHT Milk	25 x 1L cartons
Cheese	3 x 250g packets
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 – 2014*

Grandmother aged 60

Aged Pension - Single rate	$766.00
Remote Area Allowance	$18.20
Pension Supplement	$62.90
Clean Energy Supplement	$13.90

Father aged 35

Newstart Allowance	$460.90
Remote Area Allowance (includes the children)	$37.50
Pharmaceutical Allowance	$3.10
Clean Energy Supplement	$7.80

Mother aged 33

Parenting Payment	$460.90
Family Tax Benefit A	
- for two children under 13 yrs	$344.40
- for one child 13-15 yrs	$224.00
Remote Area Allowance	$15.60
Pharmaceutical Allowance	$3.10
Clean Energy Supplement	$7.80

TOTAL **$2426.10**

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.humanservices.gov.au, 18/06/2014

Appendix C: Survey results of the 2014 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	Fruit (fresh) variety	Fruit (fresh) quality	Fruit price	Vegetable (fresh) variety	Vegetable (fresh) quality	Vegetable price	Population
	P	Yes	No	0	2	$1,048	88%	5	4 good, 1 fair	$307	11	11 good	$249	100-399
	P	No	No	0	1	$1,024	94%	4	4 good	$292	14	14 good	$238	Unknown
	P	Unknown	No	0	2	$995	81%	4	4 good	$304	7	7 good	$218	100-399
	C	No	Yes	0	7	$949	78%	6	3 good, 3 fair	$232	14	10 good, 3 fair, 1 poor	$238	800-1599
	P	No	No	0	4	$940	81%	3	2 good, 1 fair	$212	10	9 good, 1 fair	$245	Unknown
	C	No	Yes	7	5	$895	94%	12	12 good	$244	18	14 good, 2 fair, 2 poor	$239	100-399
	P	No	No	0	3	$799	88%	5	5 good	$180	12	12 good	$155	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Unknown	3	1	$797	97%	8	8 good	$195	15	13 good, 2 fair	$170	100-399
	C	Yes	Yes	3	2	$792	94%	11	11 good	$225	20	19 good, 1 fair	$152	100-399
	C	Yes	Yes	4	1	$771	88%	10	10 good	$201	15	14 good, 1 fair	$163	100-399
	C	No	Yes	0	10	$876	91%	5	4 good, 1 fair	$179	11	6 good, 5 fair	$211	100-399
	P	No	No	0	2	$844	81%	5	4 good, 1 poor	$220	4	3 good, 1 fair	$166	100-399
	P	No	No	0	3	$799	88%	5	5 good	$180	12	12 good	$155	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Unknown	3	1	$797	97%	8	8 good	$195	15	13 good, 2 fair	$170	100-399
	C	Yes	Yes	3	2	$792	94%	11	11 good	$225	20	19 good, 1 fair	$152	Unknown
	C	Yes	Yes	4	1	$771	88%	10	10 good	$201	15	14 good, 1 fair	$163	Unknown
	MSG	Yes	Yes	2	3	$769	94%	15	10 good, 5 fair	$182	15	11 good, 4 fair	$156	100-399
	MSG	Yes	No	2	1	$767	97%	15	15 good	$188	18	17 good, 1 fair	$139	100-399
	C	No	Yes	3	2	$765	94%	13	11 good, 1 fair, 1 poor	$158	18	15 good, 2 fair, 1 poor	$162	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	1	2	$763	97%	12	10 good, 2 fair	$179	18	17 good, 1 fair	$140	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	12	2	$761	94%	15	11 good, 4 fair	$169	17	15 good, 2 fair	$135	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	10	4	$754	94%	17	14 good, 2 fair, 1 poor	$191	18	17 good, 1 fair	$154	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Yes	3	1	$746	97%	17	14 good, 3 fair	$180	16	15 good, 1 fair	$147	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	2	1	$729	91%	8	3 good, 5 fair	$190	13	9 good, 3 fair, 1 poor	$122	100-399
	C	No	Yes	1	1	$719	81%	4	3 good, 1 fair	$176	6	2 good, 3 fair, 1 poor	$163	100-399
Remote Stores Average				3	3	$833	90%	9		$210	14		$179	
Supermarket						$521				$123			$110	
Corner Store						$739				$154			$148	

*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	Unknown	Yes	0	5	$1,022	94%	7	6 good, 1 fair	$237	12	9 good, 3 fair	$214	400-799
	P	No	No	2	2	$1,010	97%	9	5 good, 4 fair	$217	23	18 good, 4 fair, 1 poor	$238	400-799
	C	Yes	Yes	8	4	$774	97%	16	12 good, 4 fair	$153	18	12 good, 6 fair	$166	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	4	2	$762	94%	15	13 good, 2 fair	$200	18	17 good, 1 fair	$134	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	1	0	$751	97%	11	10 good, 1 fair	$205	17	11 good, 2 fair, 1 poor, 3 poor	$132	Unknown
	MSG	Yes	Yes	7	3	$710	97%	13	12 good, 1 fair	$167	14	14 good	$129	400-799
Remote Stores Average				**4**	**3**	**$838**	**96%**	**12**		**$197**	**17**		**$169**	
Supermarket						$613				$137			$107	
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	Yes	Yes	10	2	$937	94%	9	7 good, 2 fair	$245	20	14 good, 4 fair, 1 poor, 1 poor	$195	400-799
	P	No	No	0	11	$913	88%	7	5 good, 1 fair, 1 poor	$225	18	11 good, 6 fair, 1 poor	$239	100-399
	C	Yes	Yes	33	7	$857	97%	17	17 good	$187	25	24 good, 1 fair	$179	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Yes	8	2	$851	94%	13	11 good, 2 fair	$212	21	13 good, 7 fair, 1 poor	$173	400-799
	C	No	Yes	2	2	$842	97%	17	17 good	$207	22	21 good, 1 fair	$144	100-399
	P	No	No	0	8	$834	97%	10	9 good, 1 fair	$227	14	13 good, 1 fair	$189	800-1599
	C	No	Unknown	5	3	$832	97%	13	10 good, 1 fair, 2 poor	$176	25	18 good, 6 fair, 1 poor	$164	400-799
	OSG	Yes	Yes	8	1	$827	94%	22	21 good, 1 fair	$183	27	27 good	$196	100-399
	C	No	No	3	4	$825	97%	8	7 good, 1 fair	$223	15	11 good, 3 fair, 1 poor	$209	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	12	3	$820	97%	18	17 good, 1 fair	$172	27	27 good	$164	400-799
	P	No	No	1	6	$800	94%	6	5 good, 1 fair	$187	18	16 good, 2 fair	$183	800-1599
	C	Unknown	Yes	4	10	$796	97%	20	18 good, 2 fair	$168	24	22 good, 1 fair, 1 poor	$148	>=1600
	MSG	Yes	Yes	7	2	$784	97%	19	18 good, 1 fair	$197	24	24 good	$143	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Yes	13	2	$739	97%	16	16 good	$147	23	23 good	$159	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	15	4	$738	97%	20	16 good, 4 fair	$141	32	32 good	$159	800-1599
	C	No	Yes	9	7	$737	94%	14	14 good	$152	28	27 good, 1 poor	$144	>=1600
	P	No	Yes	5	8	$724	50%			$163	2	2 good	$145	>=1600
	C	No	Yes	25	3	$699	97%	12	9 good, 3 fair	$143	19	18 good, 1 fair	$136	>=1600
	P	No	No	0	2	$682	91%	7	7 good	$144	13	12 good, 1 fair	$163	100-399
	P	No	No	2	20	$654	97%	22	21 good, 1 fair	$153	33	32 good, 1 fair	$135	800-1599
Remote Stores Average				**8**	**5**	**$795**	**93%**	**14**		**$182**	**22**		**$168**	
Supermarket						$538				$133			$115	
Corner Store						$630				$146			$143	

*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
	P	No	No	0	5	$1,121	94%	6	6 good	$273	13	13 good	$296	800-1599
	P	No	No	2	7	$1,017	97%	11	10 good, 1 fair	$239	5	5 good	$274	>=1600
	P	No	No	2	6	$1,004	94%	13	13 good	$239	3	2 good, 1 fair	$265	>=1600
	C	No	No	0	2	$874	88%	3	1 good, 2 fair	$262	2	1 good, 1 fair	$155	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Unknown	10	2	$866	97%	10	10 good	$203	15	15 good	$187	800-1599
	OSG	Yes	Yes	33	4	$836	97%	13	13 good	$154	15	10 good, 5 fair	$187	800-1599
	OSG	Yes	Yes	30	4	$826	94%	14	13 good, 1 fair	$173	14	10 good, 4 fair	$173	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Yes	10	1	$825	94%	10	9 good, 1 fair	$195	12	10 good, 2 fair	$168	400-799
	OSG	Yes	Yes	32	4	$810	97%	21	21 good	$168	30	29 good, 1 fair	$154	>=1600
	OSG	Yes	Yes	30	4	$784	97%	18	18 good	$170	19	18 good, 1 fair	$148	800-1599
	O	Unknown	Unknown	0	7	$777	97%	17	17 good	$215	30	23 good, 6 fair, 1 poor	$143	Unknown
	P	Unknown	Unknown	1	4	$657	91%	8	6 good, 2 fair	$143	18	13 good, 5 fair	$129	800-1599
Remote Stores Average				**13**	**4**	**$866**	**95%**	**12**		**$203**	**15**		**$190**	
Supermarket						$548				$125			$128	
Corner Store						$791				$219			$139	

*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

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	No	Yes	1	3	$1,094	78%	7	6 good, 1 fair	$385	8	7 good, 1 fair	$234	100-399
	P	No	No	0	0	$1,084	97%	8	8 good,	$389	11	11 good	$204	100-399
	P	No	Unknown	0	7	$1,037	91%	6	6 good,	$239	14	14 good	$202	<100
	C	No	Yes	2	1	$932	81%	7	3 good, 3 fair, 1 poor	$248	18	12 good, 6 fair	$214	100-399
	P	No	Unknown	0	1	$887	78%	2	2 good	$229	7	2 good, 4 poor, 1 poor	$194	Unknown
	C	Yes	Yes	2	6	$846	97%	13	12 good, 1 fair	$216	22	22 good	$159	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Yes	7	1	$819	78%	19	15 good, 4 fair	$164	17	17 good	$204	100-399
	MSG	Unknown	Yes	3	2	$798	72%	12	11 good, 1 fair	$199	11	11 good	$139	100-399
	P	No	No	0	0	$792	91%	9	6 good, 3 fair	$190	20	17 good, 3 fair	$181	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	21	7	$791	91%	19	18 good, 1 fair	$198	19	12 good, 6 fair, 1 poor	$163	800-1599
	MSG	Yes	Yes	15	2	$771	97%	14	14 good,	$173	19	19 good,	$162	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Unknown	5	2	$752	88%	16	10 good, 5 fair, 1 poor	$193	17	14 good, 3 fair	$135	100-399
	C	Yes	Yes	1	3	$745	91%	7	7 good	$206	11	9 good, 2 fair	$152	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	5	3	$743	94%	11	9 good, 2 fair	$195	17	12 good, 5 fair	$146	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	7	2	$740	94%	10	9 good, 1 fair	$184	13	13 good	$156	100-399
	P	No	Unknown	0	5	$724	97%	10	8 good, 2 fair	$163	16	12 good, 4 fair	$147	100-399
	MSG	Yes	Yes	12	4	$702	94%	19	16 good, 3 fair	$164	31	24 good, 7 fair	$141	400-799
	MSG	Yes	Yes	3	2	$695	94%	14	11 good, 3 fair	$165	19	16 good, 3 fair	$133	Unknown
	MSG	Yes	Yes	7	3	$675	97%	17	13 good, 4 fair	$167	14	12 good, 2 fair	$116	400-799
	P	No	No	1	6	$653	91%	21	21 good	$150	23	23 good	$130	400-799
Remote Stores Average				**5**	**4**	**$787**	**91%**	**14**		**$196**	**18**		**$162**	
Supermarket						$571				$173			$113	
Corner Store						$746				$190			$147	

*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

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) Food Standards Austalia and New Zealand. NUTTAB database. 2014 [cited 5 Nov 2014];Available from: http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/science/monitoringnutrients/nutrientables/nuttab/Pages/default.aspx. Last accessed: 5 Nov 2014.

(3) National Health and Medical Research Council. Nutrient Reference Values for Australia and New Zealand including Recommended Dietary Intakes. Canberra: Australian Government; 2006.

(4) National Health and Medical Research Council. Eat for health Educator Guide. Canberra: National Health and Medical Research Council; 2013.

(5) Dietitians Association of Australia. A food modelling system to inform the revision of the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating. 2011. National Health and Medical Research Council, Commonwealth of Australia.

(6) Australian Bureau of Statistics. Consumer Price Index, Australia. [6401.0]. 2014. Canberra.

(7) Department of Health GoWA. FoodNorth: Food for health in north Australia. 2003.

(8) National Health and Medical Research Council. Australian Dietary Guidelines. 2013 [cited 25 Mar 2013];Available from: http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/n55_australian_dietary_guidelines_0.pdf. Last accessed: 25 Mar 2013.

(9) Australian Bureau of Statistics. Australian Health Survey: Nurtition first results, foods and nutrients, 2011-12. [4314]. 2014.

(10) Australian Bureau of Statistics. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Updated results, 2012-13. [4727]. 2014.