



## Top remote shops in the Top End

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will visit Darwin and communities in North and North East Arnhem Land to conclude interstate meetings for its inquiry into remote community stores.

In Darwin the Committee will hear from expert informants on health and nutrition in Indigenous communities the Menzies School of Health Research, the Red Cross Association and the Fred Hollows Foundation as well as from the Northern Territory Government, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

From further a field, the Committee the Laynhapuy Homelands Association will travel from Gove Peninsular and a teleconference will be held with representatives from the Jalrmangah Burru Aboriginal Community in the Kimberleys.

An important witness for the inquiry, the Reverend Dr Djiniyini Gondarra OA, Chairman of the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA), will also take part. ALPA has run profitable stores for its five member communities over thirty years. In 1981 it set up the Australian Retail Consultancy (ARC) by request to help other communities. There are now 12 consultancy stores in operation. Dr Gondarra will be accompanied by Alastair King, ALPA's General Manager.

The Committee Chairman the Hon. Bob Debus MP stated:

“The Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation's success in managing stores by and for Yolŋu led to its input into the design of Outback Stores. The Committee will visit ALPA's Australian Retail Consultancy store on Waruwi, Goulburn Islands, and also the ALPA member's store in Milingimbi to hear about the services these stores provide.

The Committee will then move on to the township of Maningrida, the second largest Aboriginal community in the Territory and service provider to Maningrida Homelands, to talk about their stores and other services.”

**Public hearing: DARWIN — Wednesday 22 July 2009, 8.30am – 5.45pm**  
**Litchfield Room, NT Parliament House**

<b>Public meetings: ARNHEM LAND — Thursday 23 July 2009</b>		<b>Venue</b>
<b>Waruwi (Goulburn Islands)</b>	<b>8.30 am – 10.30 am</b>	<b>Ajurumu Self-Service Store</b>
<b>Milingimbi (Crocodile Islands)</b>	<b>12.30 am – 2.30 pm</b>	<b>Jessie Smith Park</b>
<b>Maningrida</b>	<b>3.30 pm – 6.00 pm</b>	<b>Maningrida Town Hall</b>

**For media comment**, please contact the Chair Bob Debus MP on (02) 47824644  
**For programs**, see the Committee website  
**For background information**, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or  
[atsia.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:atsia.reps@aph.gov.au)