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Mr Julian Leeser MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

29th June 2020

Dear Mr Leeser,

I write to you in my capacity as the Member for Namatjira in the Northern Territory Parliament to contribute to the Inquiry into food pricing and food security in remote Indigenous communities.

The Namatjira electorate currently encompasses a large area that takes in some of the country's most remote communities. The issue of food security is one that has often come up in my role as Member when talking to constituents on community, particularly around the marked disparity in prices present between remote community stores and those found in Alice Springs supermarkets.

As such, I wish to propose a potential approach to this issue that myself and others have been considering for some time. I subscribe to the view that instead of direct subsidies, consideration should be given as to the establishment of a government-owned and operated food wholesaler to remote communities that could act as a means to keep the cost of food in check. This could be established as a subsidiary organisation, much like that of Outback Stores.

An aspect of this organisation's operations could be the transportation of food and goods, as the issue of freight is a significant contributor to the high costs of food in remote communities. This

organisation could then be funded long-term to deliver further community development projects such as community garden programs, food nutrition programs and healthy takeaway options.

I thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry, and welcome any further questions you may have in relation to this submission.

Yours sincerely,



Chansey Paech

Member for Namatjira

