



## The measure of health—monitoring foods sales in remote communities

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will hear from National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan (NATSINSAP) officers and the co-partner in the Plan, the Heart Foundation, in Canberra this week.

Under the NATSINSAP a package of resources has been designed to establish and improve standards for 'healthy' remote stores across state and territory jurisdictions. The resources include marketing ideas and information about healthy fast food, a freight improvement toolkit and the Heart Foundations Buyer's Guide for Managers.

An important innovation is a software monitoring tool to assess a community's consumption of key foods and nutrients. Pilots for the tool are now being rolled out in stores in the Torres Strait and in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands as part of the Remote Indigenous Stores Takeaway Project (RIST), a key NATSINSAP Initiative.

The Heart Foundation hosts the NATSINSAP National Project Officer, and is the leading non-government organisation for cardiovascular health and a key agency in promotion of healthy lifestyles, including healthy weight, physical activity and healthy eating arenas.

Both NATSINSAP and the Heart Foundation are calling for strong nutrition and health policies for stores and more investment in developing a local level nutrition workforce.

The Committee Acting Chair Mr Andrew Laming said:

"The new RIST monitoring tool will record the nature and volume of store sales in remote communities. For the first time it will be possible to evaluate the effectiveness of a store policy in promoting the sale of healthy foods, while also monitoring the cost of good health in these communities."

**Public hearing: Thursday 25 June 2009    Venue: Committee Room 1R2**

The hearing will be webcast on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

**12.00noon    NATSINSAP and Heart Foundation**

**1.00pm    Adjourn**

**For media comment**, please contact the Acting Chair Mr Andrew Laming MP on (02) 6277 4258 **For background information**, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or [atsia.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:atsia.reps@aph.gov.au)