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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILIES

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Health Services
Oral Health Services

Submission No. 82

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BY: ATSLA

Our Ref:
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Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

ATTENTION: Committee Secretary

RE: INQUIRY INTO COMMUNITY STORES IN REMOTE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

Oral Health Services-NT have recently had the opportunity to collaborate with Outback Stores in relation to the provision of oral hygiene products in community stores. The management of Outback Stores have demonstrated their willingness to maximise the oral health of communities by stocking appropriate toothbrushes and toothpastes based on advice provided.

Outback Stores have also demonstrated their commitment to maximising the health of communities they serve by initiating a variety of strategies to support healthier food choices including limiting the availability and display of confectionery and other foods and drinks high in fat, salt and sugar. The information collected by Outback Stores in relation to dietary habits and sugar consumption will be a useful adjunct to our service planning processes.

Outback Stores have indicated their willingness to collaborate further with OHS-NT and communities to reduce the consumption of drinks with high sugar and acid content that contribute to dental decay and dental erosion. Based on the successes that Outback Stores have had to date in working with communities to improve dietary habits we anticipate that this will be a productive partnership and a significant contributor to improving the oral health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Yours sincerely

Andrew McAuliffe
Program Director, Oral Health Services