

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 7

**Question No:** 202

**Topic:** Future activities of Outback Stores

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Scullion** asked:

If Mai Wiru were to fail as a result of the withdrawal of government support is it envisaged Outback Stores would seek to take over their role and what would it cost FaHCSIA to do so?

**Answer:**

Government has provided significant funding to Mai Wiru over a number years. In 2010 funding was provided specifically to give it the support needed to transition to a more sustainable model. Existing sustainable regional store support models depend heavily on the willingness of the community owned stores to provide financial and other support in return for the services provided.

In future, as now, the decisions as to whether to support a regional model and which provider to use will be matters for community store owners. Outback Stores has a very clear position that it would seek to be involved in communities only with the agreement of those communities. The Government respects and does not seek to change that position.