

Sent: Thursday, 1 May 2008 7:06 PM
To: Grocery Prices Inquiry
Subject: Submission

Dear Sir or Madam

I realise this submission is being made after the 11 March 2008 deadline. However, two recent events have prompted me to write to you regarding the cost of food:

- I recently visited the Torres Strait in far north Queensland and was surprised to find an extraordinary high level of diet-related health issues amongst the islanders, and believe this is in part due to the limited range of healthy food choices available in the islands' food stores;
- On returning to the mainland, my doctor has placed me on a "healthier food" diet to reduce the risk of heart disease which, I'm advised, is Australia's number one killer. I was again surprised to find that the cost of buying healthy food is much greater than the cost of unhealthy foods - but how can this be?

If the government is serious about reducing the burden of health care costs on the community, and having more Australians make healthy diet choices, the cost of healthy foods should be less than unhealthy ones. Perhaps that means taking unhealthy foods out of the free market and pricing them above healthy foods. Such a decision would be a substantial benefit to consumers generally and to Australia as a whole.

For your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Davey
Palm Cove QLD