

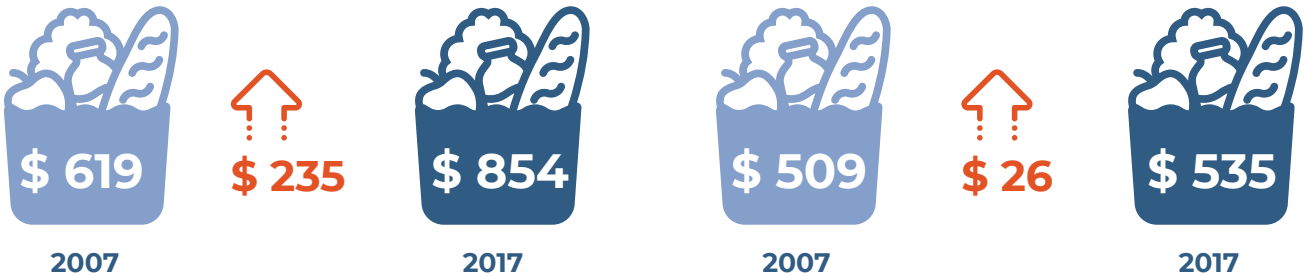
## Cost of Living in the Northern Territory

Food costs in remote stores have soared in the past decade

2017 Report Shows Healthy Food Basket\* costs **60% more** in remote stores than NT supermarkets!

NT Remote Stores  
Average Price

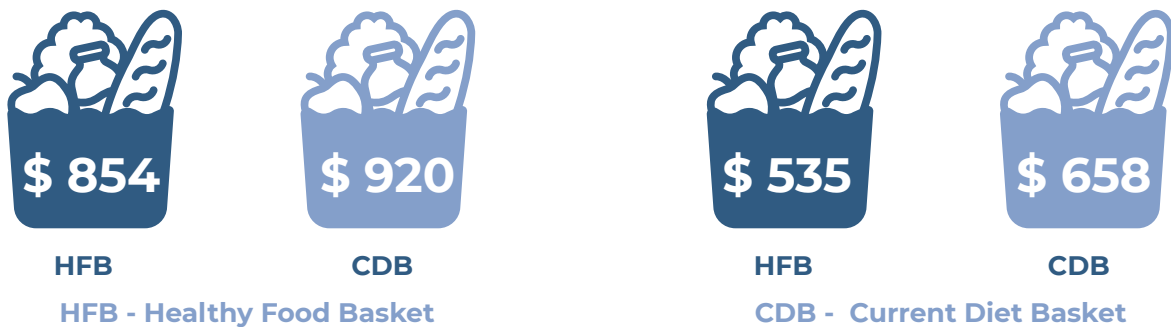
NT Supermarkets  
Average Price



In the 2017 Survey a Current Diet Basket cost **23% more** than the Healthy Food Basket in NT Supermarkets and **8% more** in remote stores.

NT Remote Store Costs  
2017

NT Supermarket Costs  
2017



While the price of goods in the Healthy Food Basket may be cheaper than the Current Diet Basket, it is **still very expensive**. There are **additional costs** to factor in the purchase of healthy food.



Many remote households **lack** working ovens, fridges and reliable power **adding extra barriers** and **cost** to buying, storing and preparing healthy foods.



# Fact Sheet

Northern Territory Council of Social Service



Healthy Food Basket purchased from an NT Remote Store will require **34%** of the household income **for a family of 6**.



This is **more than double the national household average** of disposable income required for food and non-alcoholic beverage expenditure (**13.9%**).

Source: Centrelink Guide to Australian Government Payments 20 Mar - 30 June 2019; NTG Market Basket Survey Summit Report 2017, p.2; ABS CPI Figures March 2019.

## NTCOSS is calling for:

- **Urgent action to reduce the spiraling price of healthy food in remote stores building on the Stronger Futures investment in infrastructure and licensing. Extending freight subsidies should be considered.**
- **Environmental factors and barriers to healthy food preparation and consumption to be addressed - including improving access to interest free loans for white goods for food preparation and storage e.g. fridges, microwaves.**
- **Ensure power is accessible, constant and affordable. Ensure all eligible people are registered for concessions & explore initiatives to increase access to energy efficient appliances.**