



**Australian Government**  
**Indigenous Business Australia**

**10 May 2006**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### *Innovative approach to Indigenous Community Stores*

The Chairman of Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), Mr Joseph Elu, has welcomed the Australian Government Budget announcement committing \$48.1 million to an innovative model for community stores in Indigenous communities.

As a result of this funding, IBA will establish a new company called Outback Stores that will provide a commercial management model for better governance, financial and stock management, supply chain, hygiene, nutrition and staff employment conditions for participating community stores.

IBA will collaborate with members of the retail and wholesale industry to ensure the most effective framework is established. The model will ensure consistency in the delivery, supply, quality and range of fresh food items and will provide a broader range of goods and services to remote communities.

People living in their communities will also benefit through business and financial skills training and increased employment opportunities.

“Community stores are crucial to the economic, social and health interests of remote Indigenous communities”, said Mr Elu. “Outback Stores will actively seek to improve the overall wellbeing of thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders by helping to build commercially viable businesses.”

IBA will work closely with Indigenous communities and industry leaders to draw on their expertise to deliver significant improvements in the services provided by community stores.

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