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COST OF LIVING REPORT CONFIRMS TERRITORIANS STILL SUFFERING

Shadow Treasurer, Gerry McCarthy, said that the NT Cost of Living Report by Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NCOSS) confirms that Territorians are still suffering the high cost of living under the CLP.

“Territorians are suffering under the high cost of living in the Territory,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Territorians are paying more than the rest of the country for food, health care, fuel and rent.

Australia average weekly expenditure on food is $221.50; in Darwin $232.80 for the NT outside Darwin $256.90.

Mr McCarthy said that the report claims that households who depend on remote stores for their shopping are spending more than one third of their income on food and are paying nearly 50 percent more on food than Darwin households.

“Territorians in remote areas are paying a lot more for food than those in urban centres like Darwin,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Food security becomes a real issue in remote areas when other cost of living pressures, such as high power and water costs, compound.

“For example a family in a remote area, who has spent the $256.90 a week on food as detailed in the NTCOSS report, may not be able to afford a power card to keep the fridge working.

“The CLP Government promised to lower the cost of living at the 2012 election.

“Serious consideration needs to be given to the recommendation in the NTCOSS report that would provide food security for Territorians in the bush.”

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