

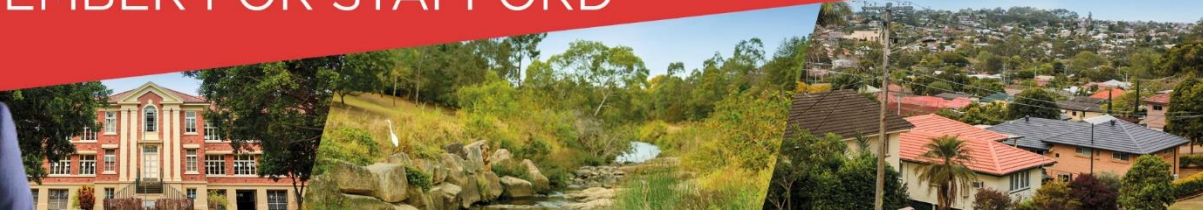
Supermarket Pricing Inquiry

Submission No: 49
Submitted by: Jimmy Sullivan MP, Member for Stafford
Publication:
Attachments:
Submitter Comments:



Jimmy Sullivan MP

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD



Committee Secretary
Supermarket Pricing Select Committee
Parliament House

George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Committee Secretary,

Re: Submission to Inquiry into Supermarket Pricing

On behalf of my constituents in the state electorate of Stafford, I take this opportunity to lodge this submission to the inquiry.

A recent survey conducted by my office asking residents - *How are the rising prices at our major supermarkets impacting your family's budget?*, received over 100 responses.

This survey asked three simple questions –

- How much do you usually spend on groceries per week?
- How much do you think the cost of your weekly groceries has risen since 2019?
- How are the supermarket price increases affecting your personal/family budget?

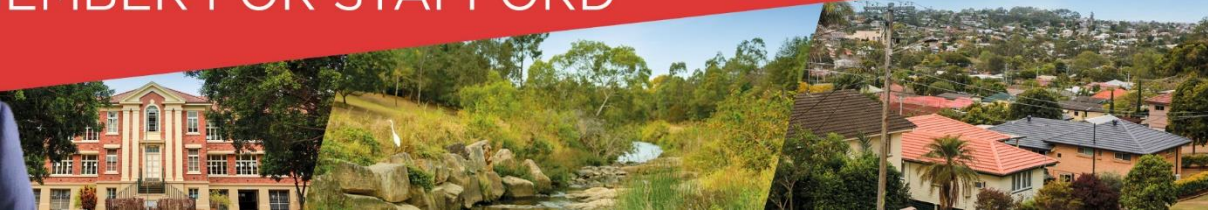
In relation to Question 1 - How much do you usually spend on groceries per week? *The average spend was \$251 per week*

In relation to Question 2 - How much do you think the cost of your weekly groceries has risen since 2019? *The most common response was 25-50%, with 10% suggesting prices have doubled over the past 5 years.*

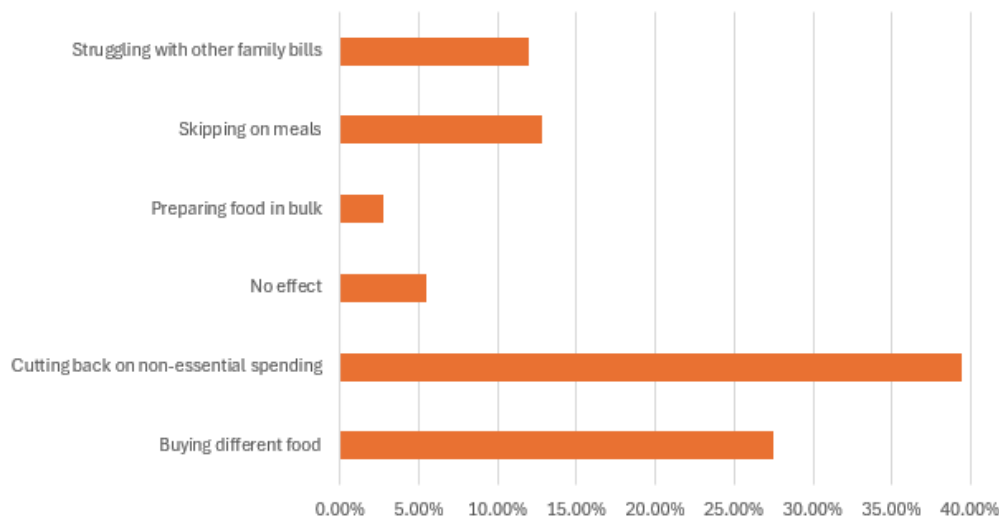


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Question 3 was multiple choice - How are the supermarket price increases affecting your personal/family budget? –



Other anecdotal comments from constituents include –

The shareholders win a ways come first won't they. Farmers must get so sick of the huge retail mark up over what they get.

The duopoly of Woolworths and Coles is having an awful impact on our communities and our country. Monetising basic human rights like housing and food is incredibly problematic. Shareholders should never take priority over community access to food and shelter.

It means less to spend on entertainment, recreation etc which impacts on the income of those industries.

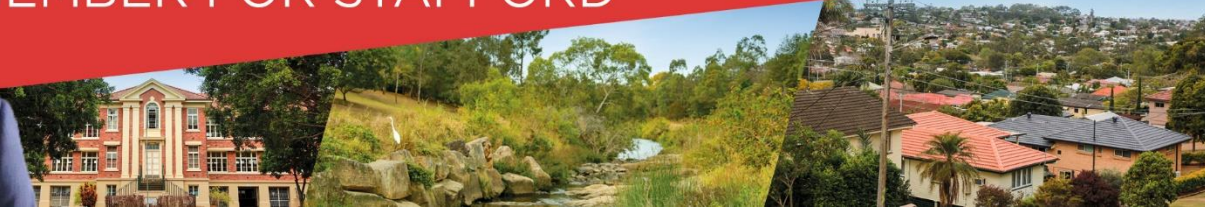
Why can Aldi supply the same type of product for less? Obviously the big two are just price gouging.

They prefer to have discounted items rather than Specials of 2 for 1 as they often don't require 2 or more of the same items.



Jimmy Sullivan MP

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During the last 5 years, I have noticed that the prices determined by supply and demand in supermarkets have unjustifiably soared. I do believe that the government sector of QLD should exercise some control in regard to efficiency and innovation even though production and consumer prices are based on a free-market system. It would be a good idea if cooperatives and the government of Queensland could perhaps have a greater ownership of the means of production.

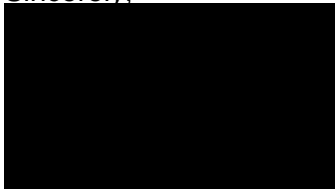
After years of choosing on my Woolworths, I tried Aldi. I was pleased with a significant drop in costs. This raises the question; if Aldi can trade with reasonable prices and make a profit, why can't Woolworths and Coles. These large retail chains are working as a cartel. We all know monopolies exploit the public yet continue to trade with impunity.

I am a supporter of examining the causes and effects of increased supermarket prices and identifying opportunities to increase transparency in the supermarket sector for consumers and producers.

Cost of living pressures are impacting my community and many residents have the ability to adjust discretionary spending to manage expenses. For many however they are unable to do that nor have access outside of the major supermarkets to source better prices.

Thank you for the opportunity to make my submission to the **inquiry into supermarket pricing** and I look forward to seeing some positive outcomes that put downward pressure on grocery prices. Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss my submission further.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Sullivan MP

State Member for Stafford

Assistant Minister for Justice and Veteran's Affairs