



Australian National  
Retailers Association

# MEDIA RELEASE

*ANRA is the voice of Australia's leading retailers*

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

## **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – MARCH QUARTER** **Consumers getting great food value for their household dollar**

CPI figures released today make it clear that Australian shoppers are getting strong value for their grocery shopping dollar and especially when compared to other major household expenses for the March Quarter, Australian National Retailers Association CEO Margy Osmond said today.

Official ABS data shows that food prices rose just 0.7 per cent over the past 12 months compared to an overall CPI increase of 2.9 per cent during the same period. "Our current economic circumstances are providing better value for consumers with food making up a smaller proportion of the family budget than education (up 5.6%), health (up 4.7%) and housing (up 6.1 %)," Mrs Osmond said.

The ABS figures for food also include spending on restaurants and takeaway as a percentage of the family food spending. This particular category increased by 3.5% during the period and was a major driver in the slight overall food increase. If this is removed from the statistics the result for Australian shoppers is even stronger.

A soon to be released report commissioned by ANRA from Deloitte has found that real food prices have actually fallen 0.2 per cent over the past 12 months or 0.85 per cent when you allow for the impact of takeaway and restaurant food.

"The Deloitte's research highlights the fact that increases in other major household expenses including rents, electricity, gas and education far outweigh any increases in food prices over the last year."

Mrs Osmond said food sales have fallen in two out of the last three months according to ABS Figures reflecting what has been a roller coaster ride for retail sales in general over the past few months.

The message is clear that despite difficult times Australian shoppers are getting better values and not facing the food inflation figures seen in countries like the New Zealand, the UK and much of Europe

Media inquiries:  
Graeme Moses  
0434 569 470  
gmoses@anra.com.au  
[www.anra.com.au](http://www.anra.com.au)