



FAMILY FIRST



Steve Fielding **Family First** Senator for Victoria

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FAMILIES ARE ONE STEP CLOSER TO GETTING HELP TO CUT GROCERY BILLS

Families are one step closer to getting significant savings on their grocery bills, with the Senate today agreeing to refer Family First's unit pricing bill to an inquiry.

"A Senate inquiry gives families, as well as supermarkets, the chance to make a contribution to the debate over unit pricing and how best to make the system work," Family First leader Steve Fielding said today.

"Family First's plan for a national unit pricing scheme would allow consumers to compare grocery prices on a per unit basis – such as per kilogram or per litre."

The Senate referred Family First's *Unit Pricing (Easy Comparison of Grocery Prices) Bill 2008* to the Senate Economics Committee, for report by 2 September 2008.

"Unit pricing is already used for fresh fruit and vegetables and for food sold at the deli like ham and cheese, so families are already familiar with the concept," Senator Fielding said. "Family First's bill would expand comparative pricing to cover packaged goods too."

"ALDI has already introduced a system of unit pricing, while Coles and Woolies have declared their intention to introduce similar schemes. But to ensure the best interest of families, there must be a consistent national system as set out in Family First's bill."

Family First's *Unit Pricing (Easy Comparison of Grocery Prices) Bill 2008* would save families money by making it mandatory for supermarkets to display a per unit price, such as per kilogram or per litre, on all grocery items sold. Supermarkets would also have to run an education campaign so that consumers are aware of the benefits of the scheme.

A recent Family First survey uncovered that in one supermarket:

- a Pauls 3 litre milk container was actually more expensive per litre than a Pauls 2 litre milk container;
- a Coles 1kg tin of fruit salad was 32% more expensive per kg than the smaller 825g tin; and,
- Kleenex toilet paper is cheaper per roll if bought in a six roll pack as opposed to the eight or 12 roll pack;
- a 600g jar of Vegemite costs 50% more per kilogram than the 150g jar.

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