



The Hon Dr David Gillespie MP
Assistant Minister for Rural Health
Member for Lyne

MEDIA RELEASE

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Australian Food and Grocery Council Industry Leaders Forum

Assistant Minister for Rural Health, Dr David Gillespie, today addressed the Australian Food and Grocery Council Industry Leaders Forum as Australian and global food, grocery and beverage companies met in Canberra.

Dr Gillespie applauded the Council for their contribution to the Australian Government's Healthy Food Partnership and Health Star Rating initiatives.

"I want to thank the Food and Grocery Council for their continued support of the Healthy Food Partnership—whether on the Executive Committee or the Portion Size Working Group," Dr Gillespie said.

"The Healthy Food Partnership and the Health Star Rating system are making it easier for Australians to be better informed about the food they buy so they can make healthier choices."

The Health Star Rating system scores the nutritional profile of packaged food and assigns it a rating from a ½ star to five stars. It provides a quick, easy, standard way to compare similar packaged foods.

As at October 2016, there were more than 5,500 products from over 115 companies labelled as part of the Health Star Rating system.

The system is a joint Australian, state and territory governments' initiative in partnership with industry, public health and consumer organisations.

"Our Government is investing in programs and resources to help inform and educate people about the benefits of healthy eating and physical activity," Dr Gillespie said.

"I want all Australians no matter where they live to have access to information that will help them lead long and healthy lives.

"Australia's quality produce and extensive variety of packaged goods reflects the hard work of our farmers, manufacturers and retailers.

"I look forward to continuing to work with the Australian Food and Grocery Council so that together we can strengthen Australia's food and grocery industry for the health and nutrition of all Australians now, and into the future."

For more information, contact the Minister's Office on (02) 6277 4960