



# MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Health and Ageing

## Tony Abbott MHR

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### **National children's survey to help tackle obesity**

The Commonwealth Government, with industry support, will undertake the most comprehensive national child nutrition and physical activity survey in ten years.

The new \$3 million study will examine what Australian children eat, their levels of activity and their physical measurements and produce information that will help develop strategies to fight obesity and chronic disease.

Four thousand children across Australia will be interviewed between February and July next year to gather the information.

Data collected by the survey is critical for developing ways to combat the rising rates of obesity as well as chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes.

The survey work will be undertaken by the CSIRO in collaboration with the University of South Australia.

Work on this important project is already underway, with a pilot to be conducted before the end of 2006. The results of the full survey are to be available by late 2007.

The Department of Health and Ageing, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and the Australian Food and Grocery Council are jointly funding the survey.

In addition, from this financial year, \$1 million each year has been committed by the Department of Health and Ageing for the collection of data on the food, nutrition, physical activity habits, and physical measurements of all population groups.

**For more information call Mr Abbott's office on ph 02 6277 7220**