

Healthy Food Partnership Executive Committee

Communiqué

13 December 2022 – Meeting 15

The Healthy Food Partnership (the Partnership) is a joint collaboration with the Australian Government, food industry bodies and public health groups that aims to support and encourage Australians to eat well and live healthier lives. The Healthy Food Partnership Executive Committee (the Executive Committee) met on 13 December 2022 to progress the work of Partnership.

The Executive Committee is chaired by the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Ged Kearney MP with membership including representatives from ALDI, the Australian Food and Grocery Council, AusVeg, Coles, Dairy Australia, Dietitians Australia, Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Meat and Livestock Australia, Metcash, National Heart Foundation of Australia, Public Health Association of Australia, Restaurant and Catering Industry Association, Woolworths and the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

The Executive Committee discussed the Healthy Food Partnership's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Australians and the importance of collaborative actions between public health, industry and governments. Members reflected on achievements of the Partnership to date and shared their visions on how to strengthen the work going forward. This included development of a refreshed vision and clearer linkages to the National Preventive Health Strategy and National Obesity Strategy. Members considered exploring the role of the Partnership in sustainability and food security as well as the role of regulation to increase the impact of Partnership activities. Opportunity to expand the work of the Partnership to the Quick Service Restaurant industry was also discussed.

Members received an update on the implementation of the Partnership Reformulation Program Wave 1 targets at the mid-point of the 4-year implementation period, with the Wave 1 2-year report to be published on the Healthy Food Partnership website shortly. Members also agreed to a process for identifying and resolving potential anomalies for category definitions under the Partnership Reformulation Program.

A key outcome of the meeting was the endorsement of the Industry Guide to Voluntary Serving Size Reduction (the Guide). The Guide provides maximum serving size recommendations for 11 discretionary food and beverage categories for voluntary uptake by food industry in retail and out of home settings. The maximum recommended serving sizes are intended to drive decreases in intakes of energy and risk associated nutrients from priority food categories. The Guide will be published on the Partnership's website, with work to progress on the development of a communication and implementation plan to promote the use of the Guide for industry. Members expressed their appreciation to the Industry Best Practice Guide Working Group for their time and effort in developing the Guide.

Further information about work areas and membership of the Partnership's working and reference groups is available online at www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/healthy-food-partnership.