

The Healthy Food Partnership

The Healthy Food Partnership (the Partnership) is a voluntary collaborative forum bringing together Government, food industry and public health representative. The Partnership aims to improve the health of all Australians by:

- reducing sugar, sodium and saturated fat in processed food and drinks;
- assisting manufacturers to promote more appropriate serving sizes to increase healthy eating options and reduce waste; and
- supporting manufacturers of foods for infants and young children to produce foods that align with dietary guidelines and enable Australian parents to provide their children with foods that support healthy eating and the establishment of healthy food preferences.

This work builds on the Health Star Rating system, which is already helping to improve the nutritional profile of packaged food and drinks.

The work of the Partnership closely links to the Australian Dietary Guidelines, the National Obesity Strategy and the National Preventative Health Strategy as a key activity to improve the food supply and nutrition in the Australian population. More information on the Partnership can be found at:
www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/healthy-food-partnership.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens in the case that products/categories are not controlled locally?

We understand the formulation of certain products will not be locally controlled. By committing to the Reformulation Program, companies are showing their intent to work towards the targets for existing products as far as reasonably practicable.

How do food service products factor into the commitment? For example, products for cafes. Are the commitments limited to retail only?

The focus of the Reformulation Program is retail products only. However, we encourage all food businesses to improve the nutritional profile of their foods. The Industry Guide to Voluntary Serving Size Reduction contains recommended serving sizes for foods sold in out of home settings. Companies who manufacture products intended for food service may consider applying the reformulation targets to their products as well as the serving size recommendations in the Industry Guide to Voluntary Serving Size Reduction.

Will reformulation targets be reviewed within the 4 year implementation period?

No. However, we will hold stakeholder roundtables throughout the implementation period to assist with evaluation. The roundtables will assist with identifying targets that may need to be adjusted due to feasibility or food safety concerns.

Additional resources

- **'Unpack the Salt'** from the Victorian Government
- **Reformulation Guide: Spotlight on Sugars** from the UK Food and Drink Federation
- **Fats: Reformulation Guide** from the UK Institute of Grocery Distribution (IGD)

We look forward to working with your company to create meaningful change through the Partnership Reformulation Program by making healthier food options for all Australians.



Healthy Food Partnership Reformulation Program:

Information Pack

About the Healthy Food Partnership Reformulation Program

In Australia, processed food and drinks form a large part of our diet. The Partnership's work helps people in Australia make healthier choices, while still enjoying the convenience these foods provide.

The success of the Partnership Reformulation Program relies on support from food industry to reduce saturated fat, sodium and sugar in processed foods and drinks to help improve population dietary intakes and help reduce diet-related chronic conditions.

Recognising that not all foods are suitable for reformulation, the Reformulation Program is complemented by the Industry Guide to Voluntary Serving Size Reduction. The Guide contains maximum serving size recommendations for 11 discretionary food and beverage categories in retail and out of home settings. Reducing serving size is another way to support Australians to reduce the consumption of risk nutrients (sugar, sodium and saturated fat) and energy intakes.

Reformulation targets

The Partnership Reformulation Program involves two waves of targets for specific food and drink categories/subcategories:

- Wave 1 commenced in July 2020, with sodium targets for 27 food categories and saturated fat targets for 5 food categories.
- Wave 2 commenced in July 2021, with sodium targets for 5 food categories, and sugar targets for 9 food and drink categories.

Foods for reformulation were chosen by a working group of experts from food industry, public health and government. These foods were selected because they are major contributors to sodium, saturated fat and/or sugar in Australians' diets. Reformulation targets are based on the levels of risk nutrients in these foods, international reformulation targets, technical and safety data and feasibility for reformulation. Consultation was undertaken on the reformulation food categories and targets with modification made based on feedback received.

Each target has an implementation period of four years, excluding 'breakfast cereal' which has an implementation period of five years.

Full details of reformulation targets and food category definitions are available online at

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/partnership-reformulation-program-resource-collection>.

The reformulation targets apply to a participating company's top 80% of products in each food category, by sales volume, with companies to show effort towards reformulating the remaining products.

How to participate

All companies, regardless of size or number of products are encouraged to join the Reformulation Program. Participation is voluntary and companies can join at any time - there is no cut off for signing up.

Companies are asked to commit to the Partnership Reformulation Program, rather than to individual targets. By committing to the full program, you are showing your intent to work towards the targets for existing products as far as practicable. Companies are also encouraged to use the reformulation targets to guide any new product development.

The time you join the Partnership Reformulation Program does not change the implementation time frames i.e. targets are to be achieved by 2024 for Wave 1 and 2025/6 for Wave 2 regardless of when a company joins the Program.

As this is a voluntary program, there are no penalties for not meeting the targets and no reporting of individual companies' achievements against the targets.

To participate in the program please contact the Healthy Food Partnership Secretariat at HealthyFoodPartnership@health.gov.au.

Participating companies can be acknowledged on the Partnership Reformulation Program website. Public acknowledgement of companies' involvement in the Reformulation Program is completely voluntary.

Reporting requirements

There are some reporting requirements to help us monitor the impact of the Reformulation Program. Once we receive your commitment to the Program, we will provide the relevant Reporting and Monitoring templates.

The templates are also available at

www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/partnership-reformulation-program-reporting-and-monitoring-template.

When to report

Wave 1 reporting dates:

- Record baseline nutrient data from the 1st of the month in which a company signs-up.
- Submit progress reports for year 4 in July 2024.

Wave 2 reporting dates:

- Record baseline nutrient data from the 1st of the month in which a company signs-up.
- Submit progress reports for Year 2 in July 2023 and Year 4 in July 2025.
- For breakfast cereals, progress reports are due for Year 2 in July 2023 and for Year 6 in July 2026.

What to report

Data you will be asked to submit through the Reporting and Monitoring template, include:

- Food category and nutrient content of products relevant to Wave 1 or Wave 2.
- Barcode or Stock Keeping Unit (SKU) for each reported product.
- Whether products are new-to-market or delisted since baseline.

If you need assistance to identify which food category your product(s) belongs to, contact

HealthyFoodPartnership@health.gov.au.

Protecting your data

Completed Reporting and Monitoring templates will be filed securely, and access is limited to the Healthy Food Partnership Secretariat.

Reports of the achievements made through the Reformulation Program will only include de-identified and aggregated information. It should not be possible to determine individual product information and sales volumes from any reporting on the Program.

Please note that company's reports may be subject to Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI) requirements. However, this does not mean the information is necessarily released. When responding to an FOI request, information contained in relevant documents is assessed by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care for sensitive information and exemption(s) may apply, such as those relating to commercially valuable information.