

Healthy Food Partnership Executive Committee

Communiqué

6 December 2023 – Meeting 16

The Australian Government, food industry bodies and public health groups met today to progress the work of the Healthy Food Partnership (the Partnership), a joint collaboration that supports and encourages Australians to eat well and live healthier lives.

The Partnership is chaired by the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon. Ged Kearney MP and comprises 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.

Assistant Minister Kearney acknowledged the importance of the Partnership's work, and efforts of food industry and public health groups on food reformulation, serving size and community awareness activities. The meeting discussed opportunities to strengthen the impact of Healthy Food Partnership through current activities and new opportunities. New initiatives include the establishment of a quick service restaurant food service forum, and addition of a representative of the new forum to the Executive Committee and updates to the partnership reformulation program.

Members agreed that while environmental sustainability was not a focus for the Partnership, consistent messaging would be helpful for consumers.

The meeting received an update on the official launch of the Industry Guide to Voluntary Serving Size Reduction (the Guide). Members noted plans for the implementation and monitoring of the Guide, including seeking industry commitment to implement and report of their uptake of the recommendations.

Members received an update on the implementation of the Partnership Reformulation Program, including an increase in the number of participating companies since the last meeting and the top-line year-2 results from Wave 2.

Members were updated on the progress of Foods for Early Childhood Reference Group. The Reference Group will be developing recommendations, targets and timelines for the Guide, noting recommendations should ideally align with best practice guidelines while also needing to be feasible and readily adoptable for the Australian industry.

The Partnership noted work from the Food Regulation System in the areas of infant foods, industrially produced trans fats, Health Star Rating system and the FSANZ Act Review.

Further information about work areas and membership of the working and reference groups is available online at <https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/healthy-food-partnership>