

Healthy Food Partnership Executive Committee Communiqué

25 August 2026 – Meeting 19

The Australian Government, food industry bodies and public health groups met on 25 August 2026 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. Rebecca White and comprises representatives from 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, Woolworths and the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

The meeting focussed on the Partnership Reformulation Program. An update was provided about participating companies' achievements against Wave 2 reformulation targets. There are increases in the proportion of participating products meeting sodium and sugar reformulation targets; this has largely been achieved through new product development. The Partnership Reformulation Program may also be influencing change in the broader food supply with increases in the proportion of products on the market meeting Wave 2 reformulation targets between 2017 and 2023.

Members also considered the review of Wave 1 and Wave 2 reformulation targets undertaken by the Healthy Food Partnership Secretariat. The primary aim of the review was to preserve or enhance public health outcomes for the Partnership Reformulation Program while ensuring technical feasibility and supporting industry participation. The review proposed changes to nutrient targets, including both reductions and increases and the introduction of new product categories. Members endorsed the revised reformulation targets with continued monitoring of achievements to be undertaken by the Partnership Secretariat.

The public health impacts of recruiting more companies to participate in the Reformulation Program was also discussed, with the Secretariat's focus to move to promotion and recruitment following endorsement of the refined reformulation targets.

Members received updates on the implementation of other activities under the Healthy Food Partnership including the Industry Guide to Voluntary Serving Size Reduction, and the development of a Quick Service Restaurant Improvement Program to expand the Partnership's activities in reformulation and serving size reduction to the Quick Service Sector.

The Executive Committee also received a presentation from Professor Bruce Neal about the benefits of using potassium-enriched salts in the household and food industry. The Partnership will further explore means of moving constructively towards practical implementation of improving understanding and availability of potassium-enriched salt to Australian consumers through the food system. There was also a presentation from Woolworths about their 'Menu Plan and Order' program to support Early Childhood Education Centres.

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