

# Healthy Food Partnership Executive Committee

## Communiqué

**19 March 2021 - Meeting 12**

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

The Partnership is chaired by Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck 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 Department of Health.

A key outcome of this meeting was the endorsement of the second wave of reformulation targets under the Partnership's Reformulation Program. The implementation of these reformulation targets will assist to reduce population level consumption of sugar and sodium and help all Australians to eat in a way that better aligns with advice in the Australian Dietary Guidelines. The work of the food industry in reformulating food products in relation to the Health Star Rating (HSR) front-of-pack labelling system was also recognised.

The meeting received an update on the Industry Best Practice Guide for Serving Sizes. This work aims to help food companies to better align serving sizes to those identified in the 2013 Australian Dietary Guidelines. Public and targeted consultation on this work is expected to be undertaken mid-2021.

The Partnership noted work from the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation (the Forum) in the area of commercial foods for early childhood and agreed to establish a reference group to explore this further. The Executive Committee asked that the report which informed this discussion be published within the appropriate context.

The Partnership also discussed the potential for future work on Australia's food culture as a means for improving population health. Members were informed of research in this area commissioned by the Department. Members agreed to establish a Food Culture Reference Group and the importance of also engaging with work being done in the States and Territories. Among the proposed activities is the development of a coordinated communications plan to promote positive food culture. The Executive Committee asked that the report which informed this discussion be published within the appropriate context.

Members also agreed to reengage with the quick service industry before the end of 2021.

Minister Colbeck 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. Further information about work areas and membership of the working groups is available online at [www.health.gov.au/healthyfoodpartnership](http://www.health.gov.au/healthyfoodpartnership).