

# Budget 2019-20

# Preventive Health – funding for the Health Star Rating system

The Government will provide funding for a further two years to implement, administer and monitor the Health Star Rating (HSR) system – the front-of-pack food labelling system that tells shoppers the nutritional value of packaged food – the more stars, the healthier the food. The system is jointly funded by the Australian, state and territory and New Zealand governments.

## Why is this important?

The system is about making it easier for people to make healthier choices by comparing similar packaged products on the supermarket shelf. Industry and public support for the system continues to grow and according to Heart Foundation research, excluding brand names, the HSR is the third most recognised food logo in the supermarket, with two-thirds of Australians having high confidence in it.

Also, more food manufacturers and retailers are changing their products to make them healthier. The system is working well, for shoppers and the food industry alike – and the Government is committed to making sure this continues.

The HSR system is one part of an overall effort the Government is making to prevent the rise in obesity and diet-related chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and some cancers. It complements work under the National Diabetes Strategy, the National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions and the Healthy Food Partnership. An independent review of the system is under way.

### Who will benefit?

All Australians will benefit from reduced incidence and prevalence of obesity and diet-related chronic disease.

### How much will this cost?

This will cost \$1.1 million from 2019-20 to 2020-21.