

Healthy Food Environment Policy Index (Food-EPI) Australia – Progress update 2019

Australian Federal Government

Policy information (July 2016 – December 2018)



Actions taken (July 2016 – December 2018) by the Australian Federal Government in relation to the recommended policies from the 2017 Food Policy Index report

1. Policy actions targeting food environments

ID	Domain	Recommended policy action	Progress against meeting recommended action	Comments
POL1	Food prices	Implement a health levy on sugar-sweetened drinks to increase consumer-end prices by 20%, and invest revenue raised into public health interventions	<p>No progress towards meeting POL1 was identified from publicly available information.</p> <p>In response to recommendations from the Australian Medical Association to introduce a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages as a matter of priority, Health Minister Greg Hunt stated that “We do not support a new tax on sugar to address this issue,” and that “Unlike the Labor party, we don’t believe increasing the family grocery bill at the supermarket is the answer to this challenge.”</p>	
POL2	Food promotion	Implement mandatory time-based (up to 9:00pm) restrictions of unhealthy food and beverage advertising on broadcast media (television and radio), including effective monitoring and enforcement	No progress towards meeting POL2 was identified from publicly available information.	
POL3	Food composition	Establish clear national targets for reductions in salt, saturated fat, trans fat and added sugar in key food categories related to packaged foods and out-of-home meals	In July 2018, the Healthy Food Partnership’s Food Reformulation Working Group initiated a consultation on draft voluntary reformulation targets across food categories identified as significant contributors to the intake of sodium, saturated fat and sugars in the Australian diet. Draft targets are proposed for 36 food categories. The group has published an evidence document which outlines the process for determining draft targets up for consultation. The food Reformulation Working Group has identified one of its key activities as the development of reformulation targets for manufactured food’s sold through retail and food service.	
POL4	Food labelling	Fast-track changes to the Health Star Rating scheme to address anomalies / design issues, and make the scheme	The government has made significant progress in addressing issues with the Health Star Rating system, and has conducted in depth consultation with stakeholders around the country. Of particular note is changes to the ‘as	

		mandatory for all packaged food by July 2019	prepared' rule , finalised in June 2018, which will now see foods only able to display Health Star Rating on packages 'as sold' with specific exemptions for rehydration and dilution with water and draining of water and brine. This decision will be implemented alongside and in the context of the recommendations of the five year review of the Health Star Rating system. The 5 year review of the Health Star Rating is currently underway (due June 2019), which will identify other aspects of the system that may need to be addressed. The review will consider if the system should be made mandatory or not.	
POL5	Food promotion	Staged removal of unhealthy food and beverage sponsorship of major sporting codes and events	<p>As part of the COAG Health Council's (CHC) work on activities relating to limiting the impact of unhealthy food and drinks on children, the CHC has engaged with Sport and Recreation Ministers and the Australian Local Government Association to consider ways to improve food and drinks associated with children's sport and recreation such as reducing the availability and promotion of unhealthy food and drinks at sport and recreation venues.</p> <p>Following consultation with key stakeholders, a joint statement between Sport and Recreation Ministers and the CHC has been developed which acknowledges the importance of both healthy eating and physical activity for children's health and wellbeing and identifies opportunities for Governments, local governments and organisations across Australia to collaborate to improve food and drinks associated with children's sport and recreation settings.</p>	
POL6	Food prices	Implement a health levy on unhealthy foods (broadly defined, including sugar-sweetened drinks, confectionery, unhealthy snack food, unhealthy take-away food, etc.) to increase consumer-end prices by 20%, and invest revenue raised into public health interventions	No progress towards meeting POL6 was identified from publicly available information.	

POL7	Food promotion	Remove the tax deductibility (for companies) of marketing expenditure related to the promotion of unhealthy food and beverages	No progress towards meeting POL7 was identified from publicly available information.	
POL8	Food labelling	Restrict the use of nutrition content claims on discretionary foods (as defined by the Australian Dietary Guidelines and associated resources)	The Australian Government Department of Health has commissioned the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to review the evidence and reports about consumer, clinician educator and industry understanding of the current 'discretionary' food category associated with the Australian Dietary Guidelines. NHMRC will report on possible definitions of discretionary food and drinks suggested by the review that could support the Australian Dietary Guidelines, and be tested further in consultation activities and be used in a range of policy contexts.	
POL9	Food labelling	Provide resources to support improved consumer awareness and understanding of the Health Star Rating scheme, particularly targeting vulnerable populations	<p>The Health Star Rating website provides a number of resources to support uptake and understanding of the Health Star Rating scheme. Resources include factsheets for families, educators, industry and consumers, posters, infographics, social media updates, information videos, and articles on the Health Star rating system. There are a range of tools and guidance materials available to retailers and industry through the website.</p> <p>The Health Star Rating launched its consumer campaign in 2014, which included a range of print advertisements, out-of-home advertisements, online advertisements and videos. Between February - April 2017 a fourth stage of the consumer campaign was conducted to increase awareness and understanding of the system and its use. This campaign involved five online pre-roll videos (played in full before YouTube videos, within catch-up TV etc.), five out of home (OOH) advertisements, five print advertisements (in-store magazine only), a six-panel online ad, a mobile-specific ad and a taste.com.au Taste Health Hotline. The campaign targeted a varied audience of grocery shoppers over 18 years of age across Australia. A 2017 evaluation report of the consumer campaign found that of the 18% of Australian's who recalled seeing the campaign, 60% of these bought a higher Health Star Rating product compared to what they would normally buy and reported increased awareness and use of the Health Star Rating scheme. There was however still confusion around correct use of the scheme and how the ratings were</p>	

			determined. The Department of Health is currently considering options for the next stage of the Health Star Rating campaign.	
POL10	Food labelling	Develop national guidelines for nutrition labelling on the menus of food service outlets, including the potential adaptation of the Health Star Rating scheme for these purposes, to ensure a consistent approach is used across Australia	<p>In October 2016, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council agreed to actions to limit the impact of unhealthy food and drink on children. One of these actions was strengthened collaboration between health and food regulation relating to obesity prevention initiatives.</p> <p>In April 2017, the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation (the Forum) identified that one of its priority areas for 2017-21 is to support public health objectives to reduce chronic disease related to overweight and obesity; and that this would include evaluating the effectiveness of existing initiatives, such as menu labelling schemes.</p> <p>The review of the fast food menu labelling schemes included 2 roundtable discussions with stakeholders which occurred early 2018 .The summary report for this work is available at the Food Regulation website. The potential adaptation of the Health Star Rating scheme for menu board labelling was considered as part of this work.</p> <p>In June 2018, the Forum agreed for further targeted consultation to be undertaken to develop policy options that aim to improve and strengthen fast food menu labelling in Australia.</p>	
POL11	Food provision	Develop and implement clear, consistent policies to provide and promote healthy food choices in food service activities (canteens, food at events, fundraising, promotions, vending machines, public procurement standards etc.) in settings under Federal government control. This includes public sector workplaces, and government-owned, funded or managed services	<p>The Healthy Food Partnership’s Food Service Working Group recommended that a voluntary Food Service Pledge Scheme be established (report on web). The focus of the pledge scheme is on simple and effective voluntary commitments (‘pledges’) by industry. These are designed to optimise the nutritional profile of food and beverages provided in food service settings, with consideration to placement and promotion of healthier options; a range of portion sizes; product reformulation; and availability of information for consumers.</p> <p>The COAG Health Council agreed actions to limit the impact of unhealthy food and drink on children including:</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging with Sport and Recreation Ministers and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to collaboratively develop ways of improving food and drinks associated with children’s sport and recreation. Engaging with the COAG Education Council to collaboratively develop initiatives that strengthen school-based efforts to encourage and support healthy eating. The development of nationally agreed goals, principles, and a minimum acceptable nutrition standards for food and drink supply in public health care facilities which will be completed by the end of 2018; and A national interim guide to define unhealthy food and drinks for voluntary use by jurisdictions to reduce the exposure of children to unhealthy food and drink marketing in settings under government control. <p>See update here</p>	
POL12 Food provision	Update and strengthen the National Healthy School Canteen guidelines (including restrictions on the promotion of unhealthy foods and beverages in all primary and secondary schools), and provide additional resources to support the States and Territories to implement the guidelines	<p>The COAG Health Council (CHC) agreed actions to limit the impact of unhealthy food and drink on children include collaborating with the COAG Education Council to strengthen and increase the impact of school based efforts to encourage and support health eating through two initiatives in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support to teachers to integrate food and nutrition into classroom learning; and development of good practice standards for healthy eating that take a whole school approach, building on the successes of health school canteens. <p>The CHC has endorsed a joint statement with the COAG Education Council on healthy eating at school. The Education and Health Joint Statement was developed by education and health departments and the National Catholic Education Commission and twenty-seven organisations supported the Joint Statement.</p>	
POL13 Food composition	Continue and re-emphasise the government's commitment to the newly established Healthy Food Partnership, including resources to support implementation as well as independent monitoring and	The Healthy Food Partnership has established several working groups to address aspects of healthy eating and obesity: the Implementation and Evaluation Working Group, the Portion Size Working Group, the Food Service Working Group, the Communication and Education Working Group and the Reformulation Working Group. The executive committee has regular	

		<p>evaluation of progress and performance</p>	<p>meetings, the minutes of which are published on the Healthy Food Partnership website (currently 9).</p> <p>The Implementation and Evaluation Working Group has developed a 'Master program logic' which highlights funding from the commonwealth as a key resource, and identifies several core activities for government. Monitoring and evaluation of the partnerships activities are not specifically mentioned.</p> <p>The Portion Size Working Group has conducted a rapid review of the evidence to inform effective portion size strategies. Final recommendations of the PSWG are available online and will be considered by the Executive Committee in December 2018.</p> <p>The Food Service Working Group has commissioned a review on international food service initiatives, and has recommended a voluntary pledge-style scheme for the food service sector. The Department of Health is working to have the system ready for implementation in early 2019.</p> <p>The Communication and Education Working Group has developed a work plan (up to December 2018) including several key deliverables.</p> <p>The Reformulation Working Group has initiated a public consultation on draft voluntary reformulation targets set for key products that contribute to the intake of sodium, saturated fat and sugars. This group documents progress on its webpage.</p> <p>As activities move into the implementation phase, a new implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group will be established.</p>	
<p>POL14 Food provision</p>		<p>Revise the regulations for early childhood settings to include detailed requirements regarding the healthiness of foods provided and promoted, and provide resources to support implementation</p>	<p>The feedAustralia Program, funded by the Department of Health, is an Information Technology (IT) program currently being implemented to facilitate child care services in providing nutritious and appropriate food and drinks to better meet the Australian Dietary Guidelines. The feedAustralia Program has made some progress to address POL14. Program registrations went 'live' in March 2018, and as of June 2018 nearly 1000 Australian early</p>	

			childhood and education care services are using the feedAustralia online menu planning tool.	
POL15	Food retail	Through the Healthy Food Partnership, explore voluntary initiatives to increase the in-store availability of healthy foods (e.g., healthy kids menus in fast food outlets) and decrease the in-store availability of unhealthy foods (e.g., confectionery- and soft-drink free checkout lanes in supermarkets)	The Healthy Food Partnership has made some progress to address the availability of in-store healthy compared with less healthy foods, through the activities of the Food Service Working Group. The scope of this group includes QSR's, cafes/pubs/restaurants, retailers, workplaces and institutions. The group is currently developing a voluntary pledge-style scheme which will include pledges related to increasing fruit, vegetable and wholegrain intake in food service settings, and portion control strategies . Recommendations for the pledge scheme are online and the Department of Health is working to have the system ready for implementation in early 2019.	
POL16	Food provision	Provide funding and support to the States and Territories to support private sector companies to develop, implement and monitor health and wellbeing policies, adopting a national approach and building on the resources currently available	No progress towards meeting POL16 was identified from publicly available information.	

2. Infrastructure support actions

	Domain	Recommend infrastructure support action	Progress against meeting recommended action	Comments
INF1	Leadership	Establish obesity prevention as a national priority, with a national taskforce, sustained funding, regular and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of key measures, and regular reporting with respect to targets	<p>At its meeting on 12 October 2018, the CHC agreed that a national strategy be developed on obesity with a strong focus on the primary and secondary prevention measures, social determinants of health, especially in relation to early childhood and rural and regional issues.</p> <p>Furthermore, the National Diabetes Strategy implementation plan, released in Dec 2017, identifies several national priority actions for the commonwealth government that are related to obesity prevention (e.g. 1.2. Develop and implement national food, nutrition and physical activity plans and 1.7: Identifying opportunities for the food regulation system to support obesity prevention objectives, including by reviewing fast food labelling schemes).</p> <p>The National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions, released in May 2017 following endorsement by all health ministers, provides a national approach to guide planning, design and delivery of policies, strategies, actions and services to better address the prevention and management of chronic conditions in Australia. It recognises overweight/obesity as a biomedical risk factor for chronic conditions.</p>	<p>National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions (the Strategic Framework)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1 - <i>Focus on prevention for a healthier Australia</i> addresses primary prevention of chronic conditions. It acknowledges the diverse range of factors that influence health and wellbeing, including both behavioural and biomedical risk factors (such as obesity), physical environment determinants, and social and economic determinants. <p><i>A National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions Reporting Project (the Reporting project) is currently under development to complement the Strategic Framework. The Reporting Project will allow progress against the three Objectives of</i></p>

				the Strategic Framework to be monitored.
INF2	Leadership	Develop a National Nutrition Policy, building on the work that has already been undertaken to inform its development. The Policy should: be integrated with the National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions and National Diabetes Strategy; include explicit, specific strategies to reduce inequalities and target all vulnerable populations, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; and be supported by a long-term funding stream, with co-ordination across government departments and jurisdictions	No progress towards meeting INF2 was identified from publicly available information.	
INF3	Monitoring and intelligence	Commit sustained funding and ongoing support for a comprehensive diet and nutrition survey conducted every 5-10 years	No progress towards meeting INF3 was identified from publicly available information.	
INF4	Leadership	Establish national population dietary intake targets, including reducing the proportion of discretionary food intake	The Australian Government Department of Health and the New Zealand Ministry of Health have reviewed the 2006 sodium nutrient reference values for adults. The revised NRV recommendations for the Suggested Dietary Target (SDT) and Upper Level of Intake of sodium for adults were approved by the NHMRC on 13 July 2017. In March 2018, the Department commissioned the NHMRC to undertake a review of remaining 2006 NRVs for sodium (including the Adequate Intake for children and adolescents, adults, and pregnancy and lactation; as well as the Upper Level of intake for infants, children and adolescents and for pregnancy and lactation). This work is anticipated for completion by 2021. Further information regarding the review of nutrient reference values can be found on the website at the following address: www.nrv.gov.au	

INF5	Funding and resources	<p>Ensure research funding allocation, including the Medical Research Future Fund, takes into account the diseases and conditions with the highest burden, including an increase in the proportion of research funding that is allocated specifically to improving population nutrition and diet-related non-communicable disease prevention</p>	<p>The 2016-2018 Medical Research Future Fund strategy identifies 6 strategic platforms and related priorities, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic and international horizons • Data and infrastructure • Health services and systems • Capacity and collaboration • Trials and translation • Commercialisation <p>One of the priorities within the ‘Health services and systems’ platform identifies supporting behavioural economics research focused on preventive health (e.g., healthy eating and physical activity) as a priority. Improving population nutrition and diet-related non-communicable diseases are not otherwise specified. The MRFF will consult on the second round of priorities from November 2018.</p> <p>In the 2017-18 budget, one of the first disbursements of the Medical Research Future Fund was for research into the prevention of chronic disease, announcing \$10 million over 4 years in funding to The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre, to implement 10 new prevention projects focused on improving the burden of chronic disease in Australia.</p> <p>The 2018-19 budget announced a \$1.3 billion investment into health and medical research, which included \$125 million over 9 years towards chronic conditions research (namely diabetes and heart disease).</p> <p>The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) 2017-18 corporate plan states that a substantial proportion of funding will be directed toward addressing National Health Priority Areas, which include obesity, with \$27.2 million and \$26.8 million allocated to obesity research in 2016 and 2017 respectively. No clear guidelines around increasing the proportion of research funding that is allocated to</p>	
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			improving population nutrition and diet-related non-communicable disease prevention were identified from publicly available information.	
INF6	Support for communities	Develop and fund an ongoing comprehensive obesity prevention or nutrition-focused social marketing campaign, implemented across a wide range of platforms and channels, designed to support related policy initiatives	In August 2017, the Australian Sports Commission launched the Move it Aus campaign . This campaign was rolled out nationwide, and promotes a more active lifestyle through encouraging all Australians to commit at least 30 minutes a day to physical activity. The campaign consists of a video and several related resources available through the Sport Australia website. The campaign does not have a nutrition focus.	
INF7	Support for communities	Support nutrition education in schools and early childhood education and care services by: integrating practical nutrition and cooking skills into the national curriculum for all school years; embedding nutrition and the Australian Dietary Guidelines into learning outcomes assessment requirements; adequately educating, training, accrediting and otherwise supporting teachers to be able to provide high quality nutrition information to students	<p>The COAG Health Council’s agreed actions to limit the impact of unhealthy food and drink on children include collaborating with the COAG Education Council to strengthen and increase the impact of school based efforts to encourage and support health eating through two initiatives in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support to teachers to integrate food and nutrition into classroom learning; and • development of good practice standards for healthy eating that take a whole school approach, building on the successes of health school canteens. <p>The CHC has endorsed a joint statement with the COAG Education Council on healthy eating at school. The Education and Health Joint Statement was developed by education and health departments and the National Catholic Education Commission and twenty-seven organisations supported the Joint Statement.</p> <p>See also information about the FeedAustralia program at POL14</p>	
INF8	Funding and resources	Re-establish the Australian National Preventive Health Agency (or a similar independent agency), with a secure funding stream, to coordinate health promotion functions (including improving population nutrition) across jurisdictions	No progress towards meeting INF8 was identified from publicly available information.	

INF9	Governance	Implement a health-in-all-policies framework nationally, with formal health impact assessments as part of policy development and proposal processes, including explicit details about the consideration of potential impacts of policies on population nutrition and health	No progress towards meeting INF9 was identified from publicly available information.	
INF10	Governance	Set clear guidelines for involvement of different stakeholders in policy development processes, ensuring that food industry representatives are not involved in setting policy objectives and agendas where they have conflicts of interest with improving population nutrition	No progress towards meeting INF10 was identified from publicly available information. Recent international examples demonstrate ways in which this can be implemented in practice. For example, Canada has recently implemented a new ‘Healthy Eating Strategy’ , and specifically states that “During the policy development of the new Canada's Food Guide, officials from Health Canada's Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion will not be meeting with representatives from the food and beverage industry”.	
INF11	Support for communities	Support community-based interventions to create healthy food environments by implementing and funding a national knowledge translation and exchange platform to provide advice, promote best practice, and offer networking opportunities	No progress towards meeting INF11 was identified from publicly available information.	
INF12	Support for communities	Provide additional resources to support increased understanding, use and uptake of the Australian Dietary Guidelines among the general public	The ‘Eat for Health’ website is the main online platform to access information about the Australian Dietary Guidelines and the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating. Associated print resources to support consumers, health professionals and educators are made available free with over 750,000 Eat for Health print resources ordered and distributed each year.	

		<p>NHMRC has recently been engaged through the Australian Government Department of Health to conduct a review of the current evidence on the understanding and use of the term 'discretionary foods and drinks'. This work will review the evidence on the way in which unhealthy (discretionary) foods and drinks are classified and explained in key government and non-government nutrition resources, including NHMRC's 2013 Australian Dietary Guidelines (ADGs).</p> <p>Through the guidance of an expert working committee, this work will consider the practicality of providing specific definitions of discretionary foods and drinks. NHMRC will use this guidance to consider a more standardised approach to identifying discretionary foods and drinks across all settings, including community, industry, consumer and healthcare environments.</p> <p>As part of the review, the NHMRC will be consulting with key users, including health professionals, government and industry representatives to ensure the outcomes are relevant for promoting the health of Australians across all settings.</p>	
INF13 Leadership	Explicitly incorporate environmental sustainability in the next revision of the Australian Dietary Guidelines	No progress towards meeting INF13 was identified from publicly available information.	
INF14 Governance	Introduce requirements for stakeholders to declare potential conflicts of interest during public consultation processes regarding policy development and implementation	No progress towards meeting INF14 was identified from publicly available information.	
INF15 Monitoring and intelligence	Establish a consistent national approach to regular measuring of children's height and weight at key stages of primary and secondary schools, including 'opt-out' consent	This matter will be considered through the outcomes of the Senate Enquiry into the Obesity Epidemic in Australia that are due to be reported on 26 November 2018. It will be further developed through the CHC agreed, National Obesity Strategy.	

INF16 Governance	Implement measures (such as cross-departmental working groups and advisory boards) to improve integration, dialogue and policy coherence across agriculture, health and trade, with the aim of ensuring that public health and nutrition are explicit and specific considerations during policy development processes	No progress towards meeting INF16 was identified from publicly available information.	
INF17 Governance	Modify the government lobby register to require more detailed reporting, including details of specific lobbying activities (such as when lobbying is occurring, who is involved, and the issues discussed)	<p>The Australian Government Register of Lobbyists (the Register), and the associated information contained in the Register, is established in accordance with the requirements of the Lobbying Code of Conduct (the Code).</p> <p>The Code is an administrative initiative, not a regulatory regime, and has been consistently applied and continued by successive Governments since 2008.</p> <p>Any change to the Lobbying Code of Conduct is a matter for the Government.</p>	
INF18 Governance	Improve transparency of political donations by introducing online, real-time declaration of political donations over \$1,000, and apply these requirements nationally	<p>The Government has introduced legislation reforming Australia's electoral disclosure laws. These laws will improve the transparency of political donations at the federal level.</p> <p>Australia has committed to investigating options for enhancing the timeliness and the accessibility of information relating to political donations and funding as part of its <i>Second Open Government National Action Plan 2018-2020</i>. Information on the Action Plan can be found at: https://ogpau.pmc.gov.au/australias-second-open-government-national-action-plan-2018-20</p>	

3. Other substantive actions

Additional actions/policies/progress related to improving the food environment / obesity prevention / population nutrition (not captured above)		
Action	Details	Comments
1. Select Committee into the Obesity Epidemic in Australia	<p>On 16 May 2018, the Senate established a Select Committee into the Obesity Epidemic in Australia. This included an inquiry into the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The prevalence of overweight and obesity among children in Australia and changes in these rates over time; The causes of the rise in overweight and obesity in Australia; The short and long-term harm to health associated with obesity, particularly in children in Australia; The short and long-term economic burden of obesity, particularly related to obesity in children in Australia; The effectiveness of existing policies and programs introduced by Australian governments to improve diets and prevent childhood obesity; Evidence-based measures and interventions to prevent and reverse childhood obesity, including experiences from overseas jurisdictions; The role of the food industry in contributing to poor diets and childhood obesity in Australia; and any other related matters. <p>Submissions to the inquiry closed on the 6 July 2018, and the committee is due to report on its findings on 26 November 2018.</p>	
2. Opportunities for the Food Regulation System to support obesity prevention objectives	<p>In October 2016, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council agree to actions to limit the impact of unhealthy food and drink on children. One of these actions was strengthened collaboration between health and food regulation relating to obesity prevention initiatives.</p> <p>A Health and Food Collaboration (the Collaboration) has been established to progress this work. The Collaboration is Chaired by the acting FRSC Chair. The Collaboration project plan commits to assist in identifying opportunities for the Food Regulation System to support obesity prevention objectives. As part of this collaboration, a <i>Rapid Review of food regulatory approaches to address childhood obesity</i> was commissioned which fed into a public health 'Policy Think Tank' to develop a shared understanding among the public health community about what can and cannot be achieved in the Food Regulation System (held 22 March</p>	

	<p>2018The Policy Think Tank recognised a number of the issues identified are already being addressed through existing processes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food labelling work within the Food Regulatory System • the 5 year review of the Health Star Rating System • the COAG Health Council’s actions on limiting the impact of unhealthy food and drink on children • the Australian Government’s Healthy Food Partnership <p>Consideration of other initiatives raised at the think tank will occur through the Regulation Policy Framework process and involve broader consultation with all interested stakeholder groups.</p> <p>The Collaboration has also identified Front-of-pack labelling as one area of intersection between the public health and food regulatory systems. The Collaboration is planning a HSR symposium which aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore possibilities for increasing the reach and impact of the HSR system; • embed the HSR system in a range of public health policy and programs; and • increase the use of the HSR system in health promotion policy, programs and clinical practice and explore expanding its use to settings and programs beyond the retail sale of processed packaged products. <p>Participants will include public health, academic and food and beverage industry stakeholders and public health/nutrition officials from the Australian, state and territory and New Zealand governments. The HSR Symposium is currently proposed to take place in the third quarter of 2019.</p>	
<p>3. Labelling of sugars on packaged food and drinks</p>	<p>In November 2017, the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation concluded that current information about sugars on labels is inadequate. Between July - September 2018, the Food Regulation Standing Committee is undertook a public consultation on policy options in relation to the labelling of sugars on food and drinks. This includes consultation on a number of policy options for labelling of sugars, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status Quo • Education on how to read and interpret labelling information about sugars • Changes to the statement of ingredients • Added sugars quantified in the nutrition information panel (NIP) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory labels for foods high in added sugars • Pictorial approaches to convey the amount or types of sugars in a serving of food • Digital linking to off label web-based information about added sugars content. <p>Submissions closed on the 21st September.</p>	
4. Clarify the policy issue in relation to naming sources of fats and oils	<p>In November 2016, the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation (the Forum) authorised work to clarify the labelling of sources of fats and oils. Related activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research in Australia that includes identifying consumers’ knowledge, attitudes and behaviours relating to the labelling of fats and oils. This work is being commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Health as part of wider consumer study on food labelling • A literature review on consumers’ knowledge, attitudes and behaviours relating to the labelling of fats and oils. FSANZ has offered to undertake this work • Identification of international approaches to fats and oils labelling • The policy context relating to fats and oils in Australia and New Zealand • Engagement with targeted stakeholders on fats and oils labelling. <p>In June 2018 the Forum noted the Stage 1 report and acknowledged that in relation to public health, consumers’ ability to identify saturated and/or mono and polyunsaturated fats in food is limited.</p> <p>The Forum agreed that the following work be undertaken over the next 12 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Australian Government Department of Health request the National Health and Medical Research Council to provide advice on the appropriate dietary guidance that should be provided to consumers to assist them to choose healthy fats and oils and limit consumption of less healthy fats and oils • Seek input from the Stakeholder Roundtable in late 2018 that will consider smart labelling. 	
5. Energy labelling of alcoholic beverages	<p>In response to the 2011 Labelling Logic Review recommendation ‘That energy content should be displayed on the labels of all alcoholic beverages, consistent with the requirements for other food products’, the Forum requested further work into the energy labelling of alcoholic</p>	

	<p>beverages. Two pieces of work were prepared, a Cost Benefit Analysis and a paper on broader policy issues regarding energy labelling of alcoholic drinks. The Food Regulation Standing Committee released a consultation paper on the issue in June 2017, and held a number of stakeholder roundtables in mid-2017, the results of which were published.</p> <p>This information is now being used to develop policy options for wider public consultation.</p>	
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Appendix

Definitions

- **Food:** refers to food and non-alcoholic beverages. It excludes breastmilk or breastmilk substitutes.
- **Food environments:** the collective physical, economic, policy and socio-cultural surrounding, opportunities and conditions that influence people’s food and beverage choices and nutritional status.
- **Government:** includes any government departments and, where appropriate, other agencies (i.e. statutory bodies such as offices, commissions, authorities, boards, councils, etc). Plans, strategies or actions by local government are not included, although relevant information can be noted if relevant.
- **Government implementation:** refers to the intentions and plans of the government and actions and policies implemented by the government as well as government funding for implementation of actions undertaken by non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, private companies (including consultants), etc.
- **Healthy/unhealthy food:** Categorisation of foods as healthy / unhealthy are in accordance with the Australian Dietary Guidelines (i.e. core and discretionary foods). Where it is not clear which category to use, categorisation of foods should be informed by rigorous criteria or the use of a nutrient profiling model.
- **Policy actions:** A broad view of “policy” is taken so as to include all government policies, plans, strategies and activities. Evidence of policy implementation takes consideration of the whole policy cycle, from agenda-setting through to policy development, implementation and monitoring. Policy progress may include, *inter alia*:
 - Evidence of commitments from leadership to explore policy options
 - Allocation of responsibility to an individual/team (documented in a work plan, appointment of new position)
 - Establishment of a steering committee, working group, expert panel, etc.
 - Review, audit or scoping study undertaken
 - Consultation processes undertaken
 - Evidence of a policy brief/proposal that has been put forward for consideration
 - Preparation of a regulatory or economic impact assessment, health impact assessment, etc.
 - Regulations / legislation / other published policy details
 - Monitoring data
 - Policy evaluation reports