

Healthy Food Partnership Communique 13 November 2015

The Australian Government, food industry bodies and public health groups agreed to cooperatively tackle obesity, encourage healthy eating and empower food manufacturers to make positive changes to their product portfolios.

To coincide with World Diabetes Day, and the release of the Australian National Diabetes Strategy – a blueprint for improving the prevention, care and management of diabetes to the end of the decade - the Healthy Food Partnership (the Partnership) met for the first time today at Parliament House, Canberra.

The inaugural meeting was chaired by the Minister for Rural Health, Senator the Hon Fiona Nash and included representatives from the Australian Food and Grocery Council, Ausveg, Coles, Dairy Australia, Dietitians Association of Australia, Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Meat and Livestock Australia, Metcash, National Heart Foundation of Australia, Public Health Association of Australia, the Quick Service Restaurant Forum and Woolworths.

Members agreed on the Terms of Reference for the Partnership and its broad aims and objectives. It was determined that initiatives under the Partnership would be voluntary in nature and that they would focus on making achievements in the following areas:

- continue to support industry to reformulate their foods supported by the Health Star Rating system;
- support consumers to eat appropriate levels of core foods such as fruit, vegetables, whole grains, meat, fish and dairy, and appropriate levels of energy intake;
- educating consumers on appropriate portion and serve sizes;
- improving consumers' knowledge and awareness of healthier food choices, including through developing and publicising tools and resources to consumers and health professionals.

Members discussed and noted the many proactive actions being taken by the food industry and others in the areas of health promotion, portion sizes and product reformulation, and agreed that the actions of industry would be important in informing and supporting the work of the Partnership.

The Partnership will build upon the many actions of governments, food industry bodies and public health groups alike to achieve increased health knowledge, healthier choices and better health outcomes through food policy for the Australian population.

Members will next meet to further progress the work of the Partnership in February 2016.