

Healthy Food Partnership Communiqué 5 February 2016

The Australian Government, food industry bodies and public health groups met in Canberra today and further considered the intent and actions of the Healthy Food Partnership (Partnership) and agreed the objectives and workplan.

The Partnership comprises 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, and is chaired by the Minister for Rural Health, Senator Fiona Nash, who is responsible for food policy.

The Partnership considered findings from current and previous public health initiatives including the Health Star Rating system and the Food and Health Dialogue. Members noted that there are numerous opportunities to build on the successes of previous initiatives and to develop beneficial cross linkages with current public health initiatives across the sector.

Continuing the focus on collaboration, the Partnership agreed future priorities and workplan items. Members considered a workplan shaped around three key themes:

Portion Control – promote and communicate appropriate portion sizes, and consumption of portion sizes that align with the Australian Dietary Guidelines. Encourage more appropriate packaging of products to align with consumption, to encourage purchase and minimise wastage.

Communication, education and meal planning (making healthier choices easier) – focus on whole foods and total diet. Work to explain the Australian Dietary Guidelines and how to eat a balanced diet encompassing all five food groups. Develop a long term strategy for education which recognises different behavioural, nutritional and information needs of the population.

Reformulation – work with industry and key stakeholders to make targeted manufactured foods healthier by building on existing strategies such as the Health Star Rating system and optimising the appropriate balance of nutrients and ingredients in food.

The Partnership agreed to establish five working groups, with expertise from relevant industries and organisations as required. Working groups will address the above three themes, as well as food service (footnote 1) and an overarching strategy and evaluation. Importantly, consistent messaging and integrated initiatives across the three key themes will be critical.

Minister Nash congratulated member organisation, the National Heart Foundation of Australia, who together with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) was recently presented an award for the FoodTrack database and web-portal. The INFOODS Success Stories Award for significant food composition achievements was awarded by the Food and Agriculture Organisations of the United Nations. The Minister

noted the vast array of skills and achievements of all of the Partnership members, which will contribute to the Partnership's goals.

Members noted future key events, in particular the Dietitians Association of Australia's upcoming Healthy Weight Week (15-21 February 2016, www.healthyweightweek.com.au), and discussed opportunities for events such as this as a platform for joint action.

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