



Policies for tackling obesity and creating healthier food environments

2019 progress update Australian governments

March 2019

Further details available at
www.foodpolicyindex.org.au

Executive summary

Unhealthy diets and obesity are leading contributors to poor health in Australia. Addressing obesity and improving population diets requires a comprehensive government response at Commonwealth and State/Territory levels.

In 2017, a Food Policy Index was developed for Australia to assess the food and diet-related policies that were in place in each jurisdiction, and identify recommended actions for each government based on international best practice.

This report provides a follow up to the 2017 Food Policy Index report. It summarises and assesses the actions taken by Australian governments (July 2016 – December 2018) in relation to the recommended policies identified in the 2017 report.

While each jurisdiction has made some progress in relation to the recommended policies, there is large variation in the actions taken by each jurisdiction, and there continues to be varying levels of implementation across Australia of internationally recommended policies.

Australia needs a national co-ordinated approach to address unhealthy diets and obesity. An increased focus on sharing of good practice with respect to policy design and implementation is required as part of the National Obesity Strategy that is currently under development.



Key areas in which Australian governments have made progress:



Leadership

National: The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council agreed that a national strategy be developed on obesity, with a strong focus on the primary and secondary prevention and social determinants of health

Queensland: Leading efforts to develop the National Obesity Strategy. Developed a new strategy for improving the wellbeing and prosperity of Queenslanders, including two whole-of-government priorities focused on healthy weight

Western Australia: Hosted the WA Preventive Health Summit to explore ways to reduce obesity and harm caused by alcohol



Food labelling

National: Continued commitment to and investment in the Health Star Rating (HSR) system and the 5-year review of the HSR system. Substantial progress in considering options for the labelling of added sugars on packaged food and drinks



Food provision

New South Wales: Implementation of comprehensive food provision policies in schools and health facilities, including detailed auditing and compliance monitoring

Victoria: Supporting public and private-sector settings to implement healthy food policies, through the Healthy Eating Advisory Service and the Achievement Program



Food promotion

ACT: Removal of unhealthy food and drink advertisements on Canberra's public bus network

Western Australia: Banning the advertisement of alcohol on public transport, including train infrastructure, digital billboards and buses



Food retail

ACT: Implementation of the Healthy Choices Canberra program, which helps consumers to identify healthier food and drink options across a range of settings

Northern Territory: Ongoing support for remote communities/stores to improve availability of healthy foods and limit availability / sales of unhealthy foods

Tasmania: Funding grants for community access to local, healthy foods



Governance

Queensland: Commitment to establish a state-wide health promotion agency

South Australia: Commitment to establish *Wellbeing SA* as a Prevention, Health Promotion and Primary Health Care agency



Monitoring

New South Wales: Implementing routine height and weight measures for all children (0-17 years) who attend a New South Wales Health facility (including oral health clinics)



Recommended action areas for Australian governments for 2019/2020:



Leadership: Develop a comprehensive National Obesity Strategy, based on best practice recommendations for obesity prevention and incorporating consensus recommendations from public health groups



Food promotion: Adopt a national co-ordinated approach to restrict exposure of children to unhealthy food and beverage promotion across multiple settings, including sport and recreation settings and those controlled or managed by Australian governments



Food labelling: Finalise the outcomes of the 5-year review of the HSR system, including adoption of the recommendations coming out of the review. Finalise work on the labelling of added sugars on packaged food and drinks



Food provision: Implement a national co-ordinated approach for healthy food provision in schools, health facilities, sport and recreation facilities, and other settings controlled or managed by Australian governments, with a strong focus on implementation and compliance monitoring

Summary of key areas of progress and recommendations for each jurisdiction

| Government | Key areas in which progress has been made | Recommended areas for action in 2019/2020 |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Federal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership: The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council agreed that a national strategy be developed on obesity, with a strong focus on the primary and secondary prevention and social determinants of health • Food labelling: Continued commitment to and investment in the Health Star Rating (HSR) system and the 5-year review of the HSR system. Substantial progress in considering options for the labelling of added sugars on packaged food and drinks • Food composition: Progressing the activities of the Healthy Food Partnership, including through development of draft reformulation targets for manufactured foods, and development of a voluntary food services pledge scheme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership: Develop a comprehensive National Obesity Strategy, based on best practice recommendations for obesity prevention and incorporating consensus recommendations from public health groups • Food labelling: Finalise the outcomes of the 5-year review of the HSR system, including adoption of the recommendations coming out of the review. Finalise work on the labelling of added sugars on packaged food and drinks • Food composition: Set comprehensive national targets for reformulation of packaged food, including detailed monitoring and reporting of progress, and strong incentives for industry to meet targets |
| Australian Capital Territory (ACT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food retail: Implementation of the Healthy Choices Canberra program, which helps consumers to identify healthier food and drink options across a range of settings • Food promotion: Removal of unhealthy food and drink advertisements on Canberra's public bus network • Food provision: Regular monitoring of school canteen menus, demonstrating high levels of compliance with the National Healthy School Canteen Guidelines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food promotion: Building on the work of 'Healthier Choices Canberra: Junior Sport', continue efforts to reduce exposure of children to unhealthy food and drink marketing in junior sport settings • Monitoring and intelligence: Finalise and implement the Year 7 Health check to facilitate regular surveillance of the weight of secondary school children • Food provision: Continue efforts to provide healthier food and drinks in public sector settings, including continued monitoring of compliance with existing policies |
| New South Wales (NSW) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and intelligence: Implementing routine height and weight measures for all children (0-17 years) who attend a NSW Health facility (including oral health clinics) • Food provision: Updating and implementing the <i>Healthy Food and Drink in NSW Health Facilities Framework</i> and the <i>NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy</i> • Monitoring and intelligence: Monitoring and reporting progress against implementation of and compliance with both the <i>Healthy Food and Drink in NSW Health Facilities Framework</i> and the <i>NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food provision: Continue efforts to implement policies on healthy food provision, and extend them to apply across all NSW government departments and settings • Food promotion: Implement additional policies to restrict unhealthy food and beverage advertising in all settings controlled or managed by the NSW Government, including public transport infrastructure and sports sponsorship • Food retail: Identify policy mechanisms to assist local governments to limit access to unhealthy take-away foods, and to assist retail outlets (including restaurants, pubs and clubs) to improve the healthiness of the foods supplied |
| Northern Territory (NT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and intelligence: Regular monitoring of unhealthy food prices via market basket surveys • Support for communities: NT Health has continued to fund the NT Heart Foundation branch to implement <i>Live Lighter</i> social marketing campaign, including tailored content for remote communities • Food retail: Ongoing support for remote communities/stores to improve availability of healthy foods and limit availability / sales of unhealthy foods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and intelligence: Implement ongoing monitoring of food environments, including the marketing of unhealthy foods to children, and the nutritional quality of food available in schools and public sector settings • Food provision: Establish a whole-of-government policy on healthy food provision by applying the NT Health 'Healthy Choices Made Easy' policy across all public sector settings as well as settings under government control • Food promotion: Implement policies to restrict the promotion of unhealthy food and beverages in settings controlled or managed by the Northern Territory Government |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>Queensland</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership: Commitment to establish a state-wide health promotion agency, the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategic Framework 2017-26, and two whole-of-government priorities focused on healthy weight. Leading efforts to develop the National Obesity Strategy • Support for communities: Continuing support for the 'Healthier. Happier' social marketing campaign • Governance: Coordinating governance mechanisms across all relevant agencies to ensure attainment of <i>Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership: Continue efforts to establish a state-wide Queensland Health Promotion Commission (QHPC) to implement programs that promote health and wellbeing • Food promotion: Implement policies to restrict the promotion of unhealthy food and beverages in settings controlled / managed by the Queensland Government • Food labelling: Enhance existing menu labelling regulations by requiring food outlets to display interpretive nutrition labelling |
| <p>South Australia</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership: Development of the <i>Better Prevention for a Healthy South Australia</i> policy, and the formation of the Prevention and Population Health Branch (PPHB) • Funding and resources: Commitment to establish <i>Wellbeing SA</i> as a Prevention, Health Promotion and Primary Health Care agency, within SA Health, including plans for a health promotion branch and focus on preventing health issues before they arise • Governance: Continuing implementation of a health-in-all-policies approach through the use of Public Health Partner Authority (PHPA) Agreements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food promotion: Implement policies to restrict unhealthy food and beverage advertising in settings controlled or managed by the South Australian Government • Food provision: Establish a whole-of-government policy on healthy food procurement and provision across all South Australian Government departments and settings under government control • Food provision: Continue efforts to monitor food environments and ensure compliance with existing policies, particularly in schools and health facilities |
| <p>Tasmania</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food retail: Funding a number of Healthy Tasmania innovations grants focussed on community access to local, healthy foods • Monitoring and intelligence: Implementation of the Tasmanian School Canteen Accreditation program, leading to a rapid increase in the number of schools accredited and participating in the program • Support for communities: Engaging a wide range of partners through social media campaign messages developed by Eat Well Tasmania | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for communities: Scale-up and build on the Eat Well Tasmania <i>Veg It Up</i>, <i>Get Fruity</i>, and <i>What's in Season</i> campaigns to partner with local communities and other sectors including, food growers and producers, food retailers, food service and tourism • Food retail: Provide a coordinated and ongoing commitment to support local communities to access healthy produce and promote healthy eating • Food promotion: Leverage action off the recommendations of the COAG Health Council to restrict the promotion of unhealthy food and beverages in settings controlled or managed by the Tasmanian Government |
| <p>Victoria</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food labelling: Introducing mandatory kilojoule menu labelling (May 2018), requiring certain chain food outlets and supermarkets to display kilojoules on their menus and food tags • Food provision: Accelerating uptake of the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices guidelines within sport and recreation facilities, supported through the Healthy Eating Advisory Service and the Achievement Program • Food retail: Incorporating the Healthy Choices guidelines within the 'Boost Your Business Food Innovation Voucher Stream' to incentivise the development of healthier food products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food provision: Developing healthy food procurement policies for the Department of Health and Human Services which would require staff across Victoria to make healthier choices when purchasing catering using government funds • Food provision: Further improving the supply and promotion of healthy food and drinks within public settings, by increasing the scale and uptake of the Healthy Choices guidelines and aligned policies within early childhood settings, schools, health care services, sport and recreation facilities, parks and universities • Food promotion: Implement policies to restrict all unhealthy food and beverage advertising in settings controlled or managed by the Victorian Government |
| <p>Western Australia (WA)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership: Hosting the WA Preventive Health Summit to encourage broader thinking and community engagement about ways to foster healthy lifestyles among Western Australians. • Food provision: Actively evaluating the implementation of Healthy Options WA: Food and Nutrition Policy for WA Health Services and Facilities, and using this evaluation to inform future iterations of the policy • Food promotion: Banning the advertisement of alcohol on public transport, including train infrastructure, digital billboards and buses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food promotion: Mandate the removal of unhealthy food and drink advertising from state assets • Food provision: Eliminate the sale of unhealthy food and drinks in WA hospitals and other state-owned institutions • Food provision: Introduce healthy food and drink provision policies across WA Government departments and agencies |

Background and results

Healthy Food Environment Policy Index (Food-EPI)

In 2017, a Food Policy Index was developed for Australia to assess the extent to which governments in Australia were implementing globally recommended policies for tackling obesity and creating healthier food environments.¹

The project was conducted as part of INFORMAS,² an international network of food policy and public health experts. The project implemented the Healthy Food Environment Policy Index (Food-EPI) tool, developed by INFORMAS to assess government policy across 14 domains related to food environments and applied in >10 countries. As part of the Food-EPI Australia 2017 project, recommended actions for each government (Federal, State and Territory) were developed and prioritised, based on international best practice and consultation with >100 non-government public health experts representing 53 organisations.

Assessment of progress made

The Food-EPI Australia 2017 report identified and prioritised a number of recommended policy actions for Australian governments, as part of efforts to create healthier food environments and address obesity.

The purpose of this 2019 Progress Update was to assess progress made by Australian governments in relation to the recommended policy actions.

Government officials from each jurisdiction in Australia provided information on actions taken by their government in relation to the recommended actions from the Food-EPI Australia 2017 report. This included all activities from **July 2016** (the date up to which policies were assessed in the 2017 report) to **December 2018**.

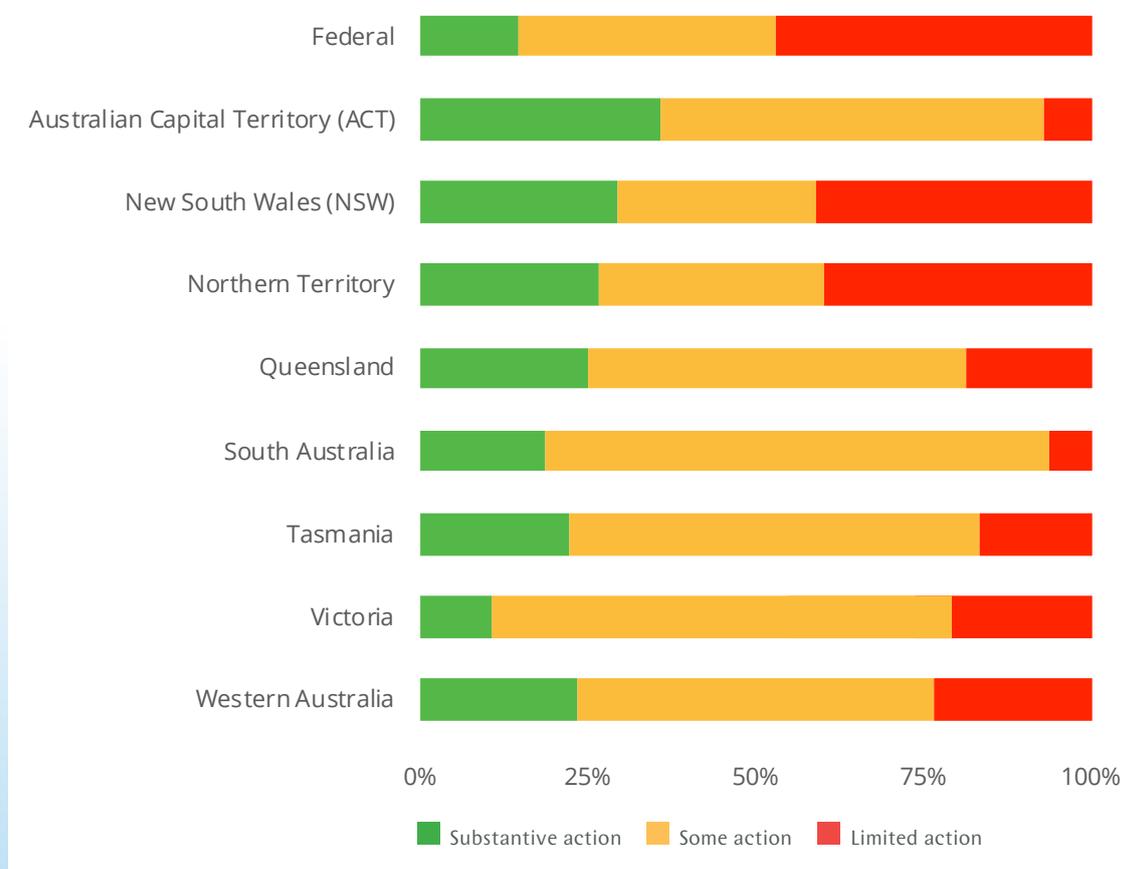
The actions were summarised, and progress in relation to each recommendation was assessed by the project team as 'Substantive action', 'Some action' or 'Limited action', based on the criteria in Table 1. A summary of results are provided in the pages that follow, with full details of progress made by each jurisdiction available at: www.foodpolicyindex.org.au.

¹ Sacks G for the Food-EPI Australia project team. Policies for tackling obesity and creating healthier food environments: scorecard and priority recommendations for Australian governments. Melbourne: Deakin University, 2017. Available at: www.foodpolicyindex.org.au

² www.informas.org

Actions taken (July 2016 - December 2018)³ by Australian governments in relation to the recommended policies from the 2017 Food Policy Index report

(% of total number of recommendations)



Substantive action

- Implemented substantive action in relation to all or most components of the recommendation

Some action

- Implemented action in relation to some components of the recommendation; and/or
- Taken steps to initiate or formulate plans in relation to the recommendation, but relevant actions have not yet been implemented

Limited action

- Taken no substantive action in relation to the recommendation; and/or
- Made no or very limited progress in the area

Table 1: Criteria for assessment of progress made

³ Action taken in relation to the Queensland Government are for the period July 2016 – June 2018

Australian Federal Government

Actions taken (July 2016 - December 2018) in relation to the recommended policies from the 2017 Food Policy Index report

A] Policy actions

| | Domain | Recommended policy action | Progress in relation to recommended action | Assessment |
|------|------------------|--|--|----------------|
| 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 | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| POL2 | Food promotion | Implement mandatory time-based (up to 9:00pm) restrictions of unhealthy food and beverage advertising on broadcast media, including effective monitoring and enforcement | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| 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 | The Healthy Food Partnership Food Reformulation Working Group has drafted and initiated 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 have been proposed for 36 food categories. | Some action |
| POL4 | Food labelling | Fast-track changes to the Health Star Rating scheme to address anomalies / design issues, and make the scheme mandatory for all packaged food by July 2019 | The government has made significant progress in addressing issues with the Health Star Rating system, and has conducted in depth consultation with stakeholders. Of particular note is changes to the 'as prepared' rule (June 2018), which will now see foods only able to display Health Star Rating on packages 'as sold' (with some exemptions). The 5 year review of the Health Star Rating is underway (due mid-late 2019), which will identify other aspects of the system that may need to be addressed. | Some action |
| POL5 | Food promotion | Staged removal of unhealthy food and beverage sponsorship of major sporting codes and events | As part of the COAG Health Council's (CHC) work on limiting the impact of unhealthy food and drinks on children, the CHC is considering ways to reduce the availability and promotion of unhealthy food and drinks at sport and recreation venues. A joint statement between Sport and Recreation Ministers and the CHC identifies opportunities for governments and organisations across Australia to improve food and drink associated with children's sport and recreation. | Some action |
| POL6 | Food prices | Implement a health levy on unhealthy foods to increase consumer-end prices by 20%, and invest revenue raised into public health interventions | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| POL7 | Food promotion | Remove the tax deductibility (for companies) of marketing expenditure related to the promotion of unhealthy food and beverages | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| 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, which may be used in a range of policy contexts. | Some action |

| | | | | |
|-------|------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| POL9 | Food labelling | Provide resources to support improved consumer awareness / understanding of the Health Star Rating scheme, particularly in vulnerable populations | The Health Star Rating website provides resources to support uptake and understanding of the Health Star Rating scheme, including factsheets, posters, infographics, social media and information videos/articles. Between February – April 2017 a fourth stage of the consumer campaign was conducted to increase awareness / understanding of the system. The Department of Health is currently considering options for the next stage of the Health Star Rating campaign. | Substantive action |
| 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 | In April 2017, the ANZ Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation identified one of its priority areas for 2017-21 as supporting public health objectives to reduce chronic disease related to obesity; including evaluating the effectiveness of existing initiatives, such as menu labelling schemes. There has been a review of the fast food menu labelling schemes (early 2018), and further targeted consultation will occur to develop policy options that aim to improve fast food menu labelling in Australia. | Some action |
| POL11 | Food provision | Implement clear, consistent policies to provide and promote healthy food choices in food service activities in settings under Federal government control. This includes public sector workplaces, and government-owned, funded or managed services | The CHC agreed actions to limit the impact of unhealthy food and drink on children, including: improving food and drinks associated with children's sport and recreation; initiatives that strengthen school-based efforts to encourage and support healthy eating; national minimum acceptable nutrition standards for food and drink in public health care facilities; a national interim voluntary guide to define unhealthy food and drinks for use by jurisdictions to reduce the exposure of children to unhealthy marketing in settings under government control. | Some action |
| POL12 | Food provision | Update and strengthen the National Healthy School Canteen guidelines (including restrictions on the promotion of unhealthy foods and beverages in all schools), and provide additional resources to support the States / Territories to implement the guidelines | The CHC has endorsed a joint statement with the COAG Education Council on healthy eating in school, and is collaborating with them to strengthen and increase the impact of school-based efforts to encourage and support healthy eating, including through supporting teachers to integrate food and nutrition into classroom learning and developing good practice standards for healthy eating in school. | Some action |
| POL13 | Food composition | Continue and re-emphasise the government's commitment to the Healthy Food Partnership, including resources to support implementation as well as independent monitoring and evaluation of progress and performance | The Healthy Food Partnership has established several working groups to address aspects of healthy eating and obesity. All groups regularly publish their activities, work plans and deliverables. As activities move into the implementation phase, a new Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group will be established. | Substantive action |
| POL14 | Food provision | 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 | A National Quality Framework (NQF) has been developed and implemented to provide a national approach to regulation, assessment and quality improvement for early childhood education and care services in Australia. The NQF includes standards relating to healthy lifestyles (Standard 2.1, Element 2.1.3). The feedAustralia program, funded by the Department of Health, is currently being implemented to facilitate child care services in providing nutritious and appropriate food and drinks to better meet the Australian Dietary Guidelines. As of June 2018, nearly 1000 Australian early childhood and education care service are using the feedAustralia online menu planning tool. | Substantive action |
| POL15 | Food retail | Through the Healthy Food Partnership, explore voluntary initiatives to increase in-store availability of healthy foods and decrease in-store availability of unhealthy foods (e.g., in supermarkets, fast food outlets etc.) | The Healthy Food Partnership has explored voluntary initiatives to address the availability of healthy compared to less healthy in-store foods, through the activities of the Food Service Working Group. The group is 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 2019. | Substantive action |
| 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 specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |

B] Infrastructure support actions

| | Domain | Recommended policy action | Progress in relation to recommended action | Assessment |
|------|-----------------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| 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 | In October 2018, the CHC agreed that a national strategy be developed on obesity with a strong focus on the primary and secondary prevention and social determinants of health, especially in relation to early childhood and rural / regional issues. The National Diabetes Strategy implementation plan, released December 2017, identifies several national priority actions for the Commonwealth Government that are related to obesity prevention. The National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions, released in May 2017, 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. | Some action |
| INF2 | Leadership | Develop a National Nutrition Policy, building on previous work. The Policy should be integrated with the National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions and National Diabetes Strategy; include strategies to reduce inequalities and target vulnerable populations; supported by long-term funding, with co-ordination across government | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| INF3 | Monitoring and intelligence | Commit sustained funding and ongoing support for a comprehensive diet and nutrition survey conducted every 5-10 years | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| 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 revised the nutrient reference values for Suggested Dietary Target and Upper Level of Intake of sodium for adults, approved by the NHMRC. The NHMRC will undertake a review of the remaining nutrient reference values for sodium, due 2021. | Some action |
| INF5 | Funding and resources | Ensure research funding allocation, including the MRFF, takes into account diseases and conditions with the highest burden, including an increase in research funding allocated to improving population nutrition and diet-related NCD prevention | In 2017-18, the MRFF announced \$10 million over 4 years in funding for the Australian Prevention Partnership Centre, to implement 10 new prevention projects. The 2018-19 budget included \$125 million in funding over 9 years towards chronic conditions research. The NHMRC 2017-18 corporate plan states that a substantial proportion of funding will be used to address National Health Priority Areas, which include obesity, with \$27.2 million and \$26.8 million allocated to obesity research in 2016 and 2017 respectively. | Substantive action |
| INF6 | Support for communities | Develop and fund an ongoing obesity prevention or nutrition-focused social marketing campaign, implemented across a wide range of platforms, 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 by 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 Sports Australia website. This campaign does not include healthy eating. | Some action |
| INF7 | Support for communities | Support nutrition education in schools and early childhood education by: integrating nutrition and cooking skills into the national curriculum for all years; embedding nutrition and the ADGs into learning outcomes assessment requirements; adequately training, accrediting and supporting teachers to provide nutrition information | The CHC has endorsed a joint statement with the COAG Education Council on healthy eating in school, and is collaborating with them to strengthen and increase the impact of school based efforts to encourage and support healthy eating, including through supporting teachers to integrate food and nutrition into classroom learning and developing good practice standards for healthy eating in school. | Some action |
| 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 specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |

| | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|---|--|----------------|
| 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 specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| 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 specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| 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 specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| 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 provides information and associated resources related to 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. The Department of Health has engaged NHMRC to review and broadly consult on understanding of the term 'discretionary foods and drinks', to consider a more standardised approach to identifying these foods and drinks across multiple settings. | Some action |
| INF13 | Leadership | Explicitly incorporate environmental sustainability in the next revision of the Australian Dietary Guidelines | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| INF14 | Governance | Introduce requirements for stakeholders to declare potential conflicts of interest during public consultation processes regarding policy development and implementation | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| 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. It will be further developed through the CHC agreed National Obesity Strategy. | Limited action |
| INF16 | Governance | Implement measures to improve integration, dialogue and policy coherence across agriculture, health and trade, to ensure that public health and nutrition are explicit considerations during policy development processes | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| 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) | 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). The Code is an administrative initiative, not a regulatory regime, and has been consistently applied and continued by successive Governments since 2008. No relevant changes in reporting requirements have recently been made. | Limited action |
| INF18 | Governance | Improve transparency of political donations by introducing online, real-time declaration of political donations over \$1,000, and apply these requirements nationally | The Government has introduced legislation reforming Australia's electoral disclosure laws. These laws will improve the transparency of political donations at the federal level. 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> . | Some action |

C] Other substantive actions

| | Domain | Action |
|---|----------------|--|
| 1 | Leadership | <p>Select Committee into the Obesity Epidemic in Australia:</p> <p>On 16 May 2018, the Senate established a Select Committee into the Obesity Epidemic in Australia. This included an inquiry into numerous aspects of the obesity epidemic in Australia, with a particular focus on childhood obesity. The findings and recommendations of the Select Committee into the Obesity Epidemic in Australia were publicly released on the 5th December 2018.</p> |
| 2 | Leadership | <p>Opportunities for the Food Regulation System to support obesity prevention objectives:</p> <p>A Health and Food Collaboration (the Collaboration) has been established to assist in identifying opportunities for the Food Regulation System to support obesity prevention objectives. As part of this, a <i>Rapid Review of food regulatory approaches to address childhood obesity</i> was commissioned, feeding into a public health 'Policy Think Tank' to develop a shared understanding among the public health community about what can/cannot be achieved in the Food Regulation System (held 22 March 2018). The Collaboration has identified front-of-pack labelling as intersection between public health and the food regulatory system, and is planning an HSR symposium in the third quarter of 2019.</p> |
| 3 | Food labelling | <p>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 undertook a public consultation on policy options in relation to the labelling of sugars on food and drinks. This included consultation on a number of policy options for labelling of sugars. Outcomes will be presented to the Forum in 2019.</p> |
| 4 | Food labelling | <p>Clarifying the policy issue in relation to naming sources of fats and oils:</p> <p>In November 2016, the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation (the Forum) authorised a range of activities to clarify the labelling of sources of fats and oils. In June 2018, the Forum noted that in relation to public health, consumers' ability to identify saturated and/or mono and polyunsaturated fats in food is limited. They agreed that the Australian Government Department of Health request the NHMRC provide advice on the appropriate dietary guidance provided to consumers to assist them to choose healthy fats and oils.</p> |
| 5 | Food labelling | <p>Energy labelling of alcoholic beverages:</p> <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 beverages. 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. This information is now being used to develop policy options for wider public consultation.</p> |

ACT Government

Actions taken (July 2016 - December 2018) in relation to the recommended policies from the 2017 Food Policy Index report

| | Domain | Recommended policy action | Progress in relation to recommended action | Assessment |
|------|-----------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| ACT1 | Food retail | Expand existing work with retailers and food service outlets to improve in-store availability of healthy foods and limit availability and sales of unhealthy foods | In 2016, the ACT Government implemented the <i>Choose Healthier Business Pilot</i> to trial voluntary in-store actions to promote healthier food and drinks, and reduce the marketing of unhealthy food and drinks. Following the success of the pilot, in September 2018 the ACT Government launched <i>Healthier Choices Canberra</i> , with the aim of making it easier to find healthier food and drink options at kids' entertainment venues, club restaurants, cafes, supermarkets, sports canteens and hospital food outlets. Over 40 local businesses and sports organisations have signed up to the program. A communications and marketing campaign is being rolled out. | Substantive action |
| ACT2 | Food promotion | Continue demonstrating leadership in implementing mechanisms to restrict the promotion of unhealthy food and beverages in community and sports settings, and particularly in children's settings | The ACT Government is implementing the <i>Healthier Choices Canberra (HCC): Junior Sport</i> pilot program to reduce the exposure of children to unhealthy food and drinks in sport and recreation settings. Four state sporting organisations (Netball ACT, Basketball ACT, Canberra Region Rugby League and AFL Canberra) have signed on, with further sports engaged from 2019. The ACT government continues to use the 2016 ACT <i>Healthy Food and Drink Marketing Criteria and Guidelines</i> to determine whether a food or drink item is suitable to be marketed on Transport Canberra buses. | Substantive action |
| ACT3 | Monitoring and intelligence | Implement ongoing monitoring of food environments, with a particular focus on the nutritional quality of food provided / available in early childcare settings, schools, and public sector settings | The ACT Government implements mandatory Healthy Food and Drink Choices Policies in public schools (2015), government workplaces (2016) and ACT Health facilities (2015). Regular monitoring is undertaken to assess whether the requirements of the policies are being met and substantial improvements have been measured. In 2017, a review of the ACT's Traffic Light Food and Drink Classification System was undertaken to assist in reviewing effectiveness of the ACT Government's healthy food and drink choice policies. ACT continues to monitor school canteens against the National Healthy School Canteen Guidelines, through regular menu reviews conducted by an external agency. | Some action |
| ACT4 | Food provision | Develop and implement healthy food provision guidelines for early childhood settings and non-government schools | The ACT Government continues to support the Kids at Play website, which aims to provide resources to families of children aged 0-5 years and early childhood educators to promote a nutritious, balanced diet and to limit the intake of discretionary foods (e.g., sugar-sweetened beverages). Fresh Tastes supports ACT primary schools to improve their food and drink environments, including food and drink provision. Currently, 93 of 108 ACT Government primary schools, 15 of 24 Catholic primary schools, and 12 of 17 independent primary schools are participating in the program. Recruitment is continuing. | Substantive action |
| ACT5 | Support for communities | Continue efforts to improve population nutrition through community education and awareness raising strategies | <i>Healthier Choices Canberra</i> (launched September 2018) is supported by a dedicated communications and marketing campaign. The campaign utilises a range of channels to engage the community in healthier eating, and guide consumers to healthier choices at participating businesses. In June 2018, ACT Health implemented a kilojoule menu labelling awareness campaign. The four-week campaign aimed to encourage consumers to notice, read, understand and use kilojoule displays to guide healthier food and drink choices in the ACT. Nutrition communications and healthy eating information for the wider community (website, weekly newsletter) is also provided by an external provider. | Some action |

| | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| ACT6 | Governance | Implement formal health impact assessments that consider population nutrition and health impacts as part of policy development and proposal process | The ACT Healthy Weight Initiative established a formal whole of government governance mechanism to integrate health considerations in to policy making across sectors. All ACT Cabinet submissions are required to report against a triple bottom line, and regulatory impact statements are conducted when required. | Some action |
| ACT7 | Food retail | Investigate options for amending the Territory Plan and associated planning controls to decrease access to unhealthy take-away foods and increasing access to healthy food outlets | The ACT Government is committed to the promotion and provision of healthier food choices in the retail sector through <i>Healthier Choices Canberra</i> . In its current form, the ACT planning system does not provide close control over the location or density of healthy (or unhealthy) food retail outlets, and so this recommendation is considered to be not directly implementable. | Some action |
| ACT8 | Food promotion | Require all organisations that receive funding from the ACT government to restrict all promotion (including sponsorship) related to unhealthy food and beverages as a condition of receiving funding | The ACT Government is implementing the <i>Healthier Choices Canberra (HCC): Junior Sport</i> pilot program with the aim of reducing the exposure of children to unhealthy food and drinks in sport and recreation settings. Activities being delivered under <i>HCC: Junior Sport</i> include a focus on upskilling the sports sector to negotiate and secure sponsorship, with an emphasis on aligning junior club sponsorships with health and wellbeing values. | Some action |
| ACT9 | Support for communities | Put in place community-wide structures and associated resources for supporting community-based interventions designed to create and maintain healthy food environments across multiple settings | In September 2018, the ACT Government launched <i>Healthier Choices Canberra</i> , making it easier to find healthier food and drink options at kids' entertainment venues, club restaurants, cafes, supermarkets, sports canteens and hospital food outlets. Over 40 local businesses and sports organisations have signed up to the program. There are no other structures in place to support comprehensive community-led interventions designed to create and maintain healthy food environments across multiple settings. | Substantive action |
| ACT10 | Monitoring and intelligence | Provide funding for oversampling for the ACT in the triennial National Health Survey for the purposes of monitoring BMI and key nutrition indicators of children and adults | ACT Health's Epidemiology Section has had initial discussions with the Australian Bureau of Statistics regarding the potential for oversampling the National Health Survey. For the purposes of monitoring BMI and key nutrition indicators, ACT Health administers the ACT General Health Survey, the ACT Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey (ACTPANS) and the Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug Survey. | Some action |
| ACT11 | Food labelling | Enhance existing menu labelling regulations by requiring outlets to display interpretive nutrition labelling, potentially through adaptation of the Health Star Rating scheme | The ACT Review of Display of Nutritional Information for Food report (tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly in September 2017) noted some use of kilojoule information on menu boards in the ACT, and strong business compliance. The report recommended that any move to change or expand the ACT's current menu labelling requirements be undertaken through engagement and discussion at national fora on food and health, supported by a robust policy process. Kilojoule menu displays are currently under a national review, and, when finalised, the ACT Government will consider enhanced labelling requirements. | Some action |
| ACT12 | Monitoring and intelligence | Introduce regular measuring of children's height and weight at key stages of primary and secondary schools, on an 'opt-out' consent basis | Children's height and weight is measured in primary school by ACT Health at age 5/6 in the Kindergarten Health Check (yearly) and at age 11/12 in the ACTPANS (three yearly) on an opt-out consent basis. Children's height and weight will be measured in secondary schools by ACT Health at age 12/13 in the Year 7 Health Check, which will replace the ACTPANS from 2019. At this stage, the consent model will be on an opt-in basis, however this is still to be determined. | Substantive action |
| ACT13 | Governance | Modify the government lobby register to require more detailed reporting, including details of specific lobbying activities | At the time of this report, an ACT Legislative Assembly Committee was investigating developing the public register of lobbyists in Canberra. | Some action |
| ACT14 | Governance | Improve transparency of political donations by introducing real-time declaration of political donations | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |

NSW Government

Actions taken (July 2016 - December 2018) in relation to the recommended policies from the 2017 Food Policy Index report

| | Domain | Recommended policy action | Progress in relation to recommended action | Assessment |
|------|-----------------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| NSW1 | Monitoring and intelligence | Implement ongoing monitoring of food environments, including the marketing of unhealthy foods to children, and the nutritional quality of food available in schools and public sector settings | NSW now conducts annual monitoring and progress reporting against implementation of the 2017 <i>'Healthy Food and Drink in NSW Health Facilities for Staff and Visitors Framework'</i> . By 2019, all government primary and secondary schools will be required to meet the <i>'NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy'</i> (launched in 2017). NSW has an independent verification process in place to monitor and assess if school canteens are meeting the Strategy, including that unhealthy foods are not promoted to children. The service is funded to conduct checks to December 2019. | Substantive action |
| NSW2 | Food promotion | Restrict the promotion of unhealthy food and beverages in settings controlled / managed by the New South Wales government | The 2017 <i>'Healthy Food and Drink in NSW Health Facilities for Staff and Visitors Framework'</i> specify that unhealthy foods and drinks should not be promoted in NSW health facilities. The 2017 <i>'NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy'</i> also specifies that unhealthy foods and drinks should not be promoted in both primary and secondary school canteens. | Some action |
| NSW3 | Food labelling | Enhance existing menu labelling regulations by requiring food outlets to display interpretive nutrition labelling, potentially through adaptation of the Health Star Rating scheme | NSW Health continues to work with other jurisdictions implementing menu-labelling legislation to progress a uniform approach. NSW has been instrumental in the work led by the COAG Health Council that includes actions to enhance and better align menu labelling approaches across jurisdictions. | Some action |
| NSW4 | Food provision | Establish a whole-of-government policy on healthy food provision across all New South Wales government departments and settings | NSW Health applies a consistent approach to healthy food provision across several key settings, including: public schools, NSW health facilities and the NSW Office of Sport's 11 sport and recreation centres. This approach has recently been updated to align with the Australian Dietary Guidelines classification of foods, incorporate the Health Star Rating system and establish portion limits. The approach does not extend across all government food provision / procurement. | Substantive action |
| NSW5 | Food provision | Improve compliance with NSW Canteen Strategy in all schools by extending reporting mechanisms, incentives and support systems | All NSW government primary and secondary schools are required to meet the revised 2017 <i>'NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy'</i> by 2019. Catholic and independent schools are strongly encouraged to achieve the strategy. There are a number of support mechanisms and resources available to schools, canteen managers and the food industry to assist in reaching this target. | Substantive action |
| NSW6 | Food retail | Incorporate nutrition / healthy food environments into guidelines for Regional Growth Plans and planning strategies and limit access to unhealthy take-away foods through planning provisions | The majority of regional plans in NSW recognise the need to help keep fresh food available locally. The Regional Plan for Sydney, updated in 2018, includes a strategy and actions to promote local access to healthy fresh food and to support local fresh food production. | Some action |
| NSW7 | Funding and resources | Establish an independent, statutory health promotion agency, with a secure funding stream, that includes an objective to improve population nutrition | The NSW Office of Preventive Health is focused on health promotion and its objectives and functions clearly establish a priority for improving population nutrition. | Some action |
| NSW8 | Monitoring and intelligence | Introduce regular measuring of children's height and weight at key stages of primary and secondary schools, on an 'opt-out' consent basis | NSW Health is implementing routine height and weight measures for all children (0-17 years) who attend a NSW Health facility (including oral health clinics). This initiative aims to improve routine growth and weight monitoring of all children (guidelines published in November 2017). | Substantive action |

| | | | | |
|-------|----------------|--|--|--------------------|
| NSW9 | Food promotion | Require all organisations that receive funding from the New South Wales Government to restrict all promotion (including sponsorship) related to unhealthy food and beverages as a condition of funding | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| NSW10 | Food retail | Expand programs to incentivise sports and recreation clubs to sell healthier foods and beverages whilst limiting unhealthy foods and beverages | The NSW Office of Sport has committed to align with the NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy in their 11 Sport and Recreation Centres. NSW Health continues to fund the 'Finish with the Right Stuff' program, which encourages community based sport clubs to provide and promote healthy food and drink at their canteens, and has actively recruited 300 clubs / associations across NSW from 2016-2018. | Substantive action |
| NSW11 | Food provision | Actively promote healthy workplace initiatives and associated resources to private sector workplaces, and monitor and evaluate progress | NSW Health continues to support the 'Get Healthy at Work' initiative for the private sector, and has developed a workplace Health Program Action Plan targeting Healthy Eating. Associated resources have recently aligned with the Healthy Food and Drink NSW Health Facilities framework, to ensure a consistent approach across NSW settings. There is no published monitoring and evaluation plan. | Some action |
| NSW12 | Governance | Improve transparency of political donations by introducing real-time declaration of political donations | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| NSW13 | Food retail | Implement programs, e.g., incentives or accreditation schemes, for restaurants, pubs and clubs to improve the healthiness of their menu options | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| NSW14 | Governance | Implement formal health impact assessments on population nutrition and health as part of policy development and proposal process | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| NSW15 | Governance | Establish governance structures to improve policy coherence regarding agriculture, food, health, and innovation / research and development policies | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| NSW16 | Governance | Modify the government lobby register to require more detailed reporting, including details of specific lobbying activities | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| NSW17 | Governance | Add food manufacturers (and associated entities) to the list of prohibited political donors | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |

Northern Territory Government

Actions taken (July 2016 - December 2018) in relation to the recommended policies from the 2017 Food Policy Index report

| | Domain | Recommended policy action | Progress in relation to recommended action | Assessment |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| NT1 | Monitoring and intelligence | Implement ongoing monitoring of food environments, including the marketing of unhealthy foods to children, and the nutritional quality of food available in schools and public sector settings | NT Health conducts regular audits of compliance with the 'Healthy Choices Made Easy' policy for provision of food and drinks in NT health premises. | Some action |
| NT2 | Food provision | Improve awareness and compliance with existing canteen policy in all schools, by extending reporting mechanisms, incentives and support systems | NT Health continues to work with canteens in NT schools and the NT Department of Education to support the implementation of the 'Canteen, nutrition and healthy eating policy'. | Some action |
| NT3 | Monitoring and intelligence | Actively monitor prices of healthy and unhealthy foods across the Northern Territory by widening the scope of the 'Market Basket Survey' | Monitoring of unhealthy food prices was included in the 2016 and 2017 market basket surveys and will continue to be included in future surveys. The 'Market Basket Survey' includes surveying of a major supermarket and corner store in each district centre town. | Substantive action |
| NT4 | Food retail | Expand existing work with retailers / food service outlets to improve availability of healthy foods and limit availability / sales of unhealthy foods, particularly in remote stores | This is ongoing work and core business for public health nutritionists working in remote communities. NT Health provides strategic advice to Community Stores Licensing team in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. NT Health is supporting 'Healthy Stores 2020', a research project led by Menzies School of Health Research which assesses the impact of reducing the visibility/availability of discretionary foods and drinks. | Substantive action |
| NT5 | Food provision | Establish a whole-of-government policy on healthy food provision by applying the NT Health 'Healthy Choices Made Easy' policy across all public sector settings as well as settings under government control | The NT Department of Health (DoH) is not aware of any work to establish a whole of government policy, however other agencies have shown interest in developing a similar policy, particularly in regards to catering events and DoH is supporting this work when it arises. | Limited action |
| NT6 | Food labelling | Implement mandatory nutrition labelling on menus at food service outlets (e.g., fast food and take-away), in line with regulations in other States / Territories | To date, no progress has been made in this area. However, in response to mandatory requirements in other jurisdictions, major fast food chains have adopted nutrition labelling across their stores nationwide, including the NT. There are no 'chains' that only operate in the NT. Accordingly, it could be argued that no further action is required. | Limited action |
| NT7 | Governance | Implement formal health impact assessments that consider population nutrition and health impacts as part of policy development and proposal process | NT Health continues to provide commentary on major NT Government policies and projects, however there is no formal health impact assessment process. | Limited action |
| NT8 | Food retail | Amend the planning framework to prioritise health and healthy food environments, as part of facilitating local governments to limit the placement / density of unhealthy food outlets and support healthy food outlets | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |

| | | | | |
|------|-----------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| NT9 | Food promotion | Implement policies to restrict the promotion of unhealthy food and beverages in settings controlled or managed by the Northern Territory government | NT Health contributed to a national interim guide for reducing children's exposure to unhealthy food and drink marketing. This guide is for voluntary use by governments and was endorsed by Health Ministers at the Council of Australian Governments Health Council meeting on 2 August 2018. NT Health has commenced discussion to progress implementation of the guide. | Some action |
| NT10 | Food retail | Develop and implement programs to incentivise sports and recreation clubs to sell healthier foods and beverages whilst limiting unhealthy foods and beverages | NT Health is investigating options to progress work in this area. | Some action |
| NT11 | Support for communities | Commit to ongoing, long-term support for social marketing campaigns promoting healthy eating (including tailored campaigns for remote communities) | NT health has continued to fund the NT Heart Foundation branch to implement <i>Live Lighter</i> social marketing campaign. Promotion includes mass media, advertising, social media, online and printed resources, advocacy and retailers. In remote communities, advertisements were produced by Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation instead of the standard <i>Live Lighter</i> sugary drinks television commercials. | Substantive action |
| NT12 | Food provision | Roll out the newly developed 'Healthy Workplace' resources to support healthy eating policy implementation in private sector workplaces | The healthy workplace toolkit "Your Simple Guide to Workplace Health and Well Being" was published online by the NT Government in 2017. This document is a practical guide to implementing workplace health programs, available online to government and private sector workplaces. NT Health provides support to implement the toolkit to workplaces as requested. | Substantive action |
| NT13 | Food promotion | Require all organisations that receive funding from the Northern Territory Government to restrict all promotion (including sponsorship) related to unhealthy food and beverages as a condition of funding | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| NT14 | Support for communities | Roll out the 'Childhood Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle (COPAL)' program, providing funding and support for implementation at the local government / community level | Commonwealth funding for COPAL is no longer available. However, the City of Palmerston Council who delivered the initiative, has continued to build on relationships created by COPAL, through employing a Health Programs Manager. No further funding for this initiative has been identified. | Some action |
| NT15 | Monitoring and intelligence | Introduce regular measuring of children's height and weight at key stages of primary and secondary schools, on an 'opt-out' consent basis | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |

Queensland Government

Actions taken (July 2016 - June 2018) in relation to the recommended policies from the 2017 Food Policy Index report

| | Domain | Recommended policy action | Progress in relation to recommended action | Assessment |
|------|-----------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| QLD1 | Leadership | Continue efforts to establish a state-wide Queensland Health Promotion Commission (QHPC) to implement programs that promote health and wellbeing | The Queensland Government has committed to introduce legislation to establish a state-wide health promotion agency in 2019. | Substantive action |
| QLD2 | Food provision | Improve compliance with the 'Smart Choices: Healthy Food and Drink Strategy for Queensland Schools' in all schools by extending reporting mechanisms, incentives and support systems | The Queensland Department of Education continues to develop and review student health and wellbeing initiatives and resources, provide advice and support to schools about implementing Smart Choices, and liaise with key stakeholders to deliver programs across Queensland. The Queensland Government continues to fund the Queensland Association of School Tuckshops to provide support and resources to implement / maintain the Smart Choices canteen strategy. In 2017/18, 52% of school tuckshops reviewed were compliant, compared to 12% in 2015/2016. In 2018, a state-wide snapshot survey of school tuckshops was conducted. However, there is no independent verification of compliance. | Some action |
| QLD3 | Food provision | Establish a whole-of-government policy on healthy food procurement and provision across Queensland Government departments and settings | There is currently no government-wide policy around the provision of healthy food in public sector workplaces however the new Be Healthy, be safe, be well whole-of government framework integrates wellbeing into leadership, culture, work design and environment. The Healthier.Happier.Workplaces initiative supports all Queensland organisations to commit to health and wellbeing in the workplace. | Limited action |
| QLD4 | Food labelling | Enhance existing menu labelling regulations by requiring food outlets to display interpretive nutrition labelling, potentially through adaptation of the Health Star Rating scheme | The Queensland Department of Health is leading the national review of fast food menu labelling schemes in Australia. In June 2018, further consultation was endorsed to strengthen menu labelling and a public health and industry co-design process is proceeding on issues including menu legibility, electronic menus, multi-serve items and third-party operators. | Some action |
| QLD5 | Monitoring and intelligence | Implement ongoing monitoring of food environments, including the marketing of unhealthy foods to children, and the nutritional quality of food available in schools and public sector settings | The Queensland Government has recently (2018) conducted monitoring of their 'Healthier drinks at healthcare facilities: Best Practice Guide', which indicated that 60% of health facilities are making progress to meet guidelines to restrict the sale and promotion of unhealthy drinks. Queensland is evaluating its fast food menu labelling scheme, with results available in 2019. No comprehensive monitoring of marketing of unhealthy foods to children is in place. | Some action |
| QLD6 | Food promotion | Restrict the promotion of unhealthy food and beverages in settings controlled / managed by the Queensland Government | The Queensland Government continues to implement the 'Healthier drinks at healthcare facilities: Best Practice Guide' for use by all Hospital and Health Services (HHSs). This specifies that unhealthy drinks (e.g., sugary drinks) should not be promoted in Queensland HHSs. No other action was identified. | Some action |
| QLD7 | Food promotion | Require all organisations that receive funding from the Queensland Government to restrict all promotion (including sponsorship) related to unhealthy food and beverages as a condition of funding | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |

| | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| QLD8 | Governance | Implement formal health impact assessments on population nutrition and health as part of policy development and proposal process | The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Guideline was updated in March 2018 and applies to all Queensland Government projects that are subject to an Environmental Impact Statement process. The Guideline states that the SIA must address 'health and community wellbeing', and considers a range of ways in which a project may impact health and wellbeing. Impact on population nutrition is not specified. | Some action |
| QLD9 | Support for communities | Put in place overarching state-wide structures and associated resources for supporting healthy food environments at the community level across settings | Following the 2017 State election, the Government has maintained their commitment to rebuild preventive health and health promotion capacity through the establishment of a state-wide health promotion agency, and by supporting practical programs of proven effectiveness. The Health and Wellbeing Strategic Framework 2017-26 outlines priority actions to support/foster healthy behaviours, with specific targets and annual progress reporting. In 2018, the government released two whole-of-government priorities focused on healthy weight. There is currently no state-wide structure in place to support communities to co-ordinate comprehensive local-level interventions. | Substantive action |
| QLD10 | Support for communities | Extend commitment to existing social marketing campaigns by increasing their scope and reach, as part of broader efforts to improve population nutrition | The 'Healthier. Happier' social marketing campaign has continued to be supported by the Queensland Government, along with associated resources. Partnerships with Queensland Government departments and NGOs have aimed to extend the campaign's behaviour change messaging. | Substantive action |
| QLD11 | Food retail | Develop and implement programs to incentivise sports and recreation venues and clubs to sell healthier foods and beverages whilst limiting unhealthy foods and beverages | The Queensland Government continues to fund the Alcohol and Drug Foundation to support amateur junior sporting clubs to improve the way alcohol is managed, and promote healthy food and drinks through the Good Sports Healthy Eating program. This aims to increase the availability of healthy options, develop healthy food and drink policy, promote water and encourage healthy fundraising activities. | Some action |
| QLD12 | Food provision | Increase incentives for workplaces to adopt healthy workplace initiatives, and actively promote the initiative | The Queensland Government supports the newly implemented 'Be Healthy, Be Safe, Be Well' framework across the public sector. The government continues to support the 'Healthier. Happier. Workplaces' program, which supports and recognises best practice health promotion programs and policies across the private sector. | Some action |
| QLD13 | Governance | Establish governance structures to improve policy coherence regarding agriculture, food, health, innovation / research and development policies | The Queensland Department of Premier and Cabinet is coordinating governance mechanisms across all relevant agencies to ensure the attainment of <i>Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities</i> (2018). The strategy is focused on collaborative efforts across government and with partners. Two of the six whole-of-government priorities specifically relate to health and wellbeing | Substantive action |
| QLD14 | Food retail | Expand existing initiatives with retailers / food service outlets in remote communities to improve in-store availability of healthy foods and limit unhealthy foods | The Queensland Government partnered with three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Shire Councils to conduct an 18-month pilot project aimed at reducing sugary drink consumption. For community stores this involved placing water only fridges at the front-of-store and selling water at cost-price. | Some action |
| QLD15 | Monitoring and intelligence | Introduce regular measuring of children's height and weight at key stages of primary and secondary schools, on an 'opt-out' consent basis | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| QLD16 | Food retail | Implement programs, e.g., incentives or accreditation schemes, for restaurants, pubs and clubs to improve the healthiness of their menu options | At the Federal level, the Queensland Department of Health has contributed to the Healthy Food Partnership's 'Food Service Working Group', which has developed a pledge scheme to incentivise the food service sector to improve the healthiness of menu items and practices. | Some action |

South Australian Government

Actions taken (July 2016 - December 2018) in relation to the recommended policies from the 2017 Food Policy Index report

| | Domain | Recommended policy action | Progress in relation to recommended action | Assessment |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| SA1 | Leadership | Develop a comprehensive strategy, with a clear implementation plan and associated funding, that includes addressing population nutrition needs in South Australia | In 2018 the SA government renewed its focus on prevention through its <i>Better Prevention for a Healthy South Australia policy</i> , which delivers prevention outcomes through five key strategic levers that include aspects of nutrition. The Prevention and Population Health Branch (PPHB), formed in 2017, committed to develop a PPHB Prevention Plan, which focuses on healthy eating and physical activity to prevent NCDs, and has recruited two public health nutritionists to support progress. | Substantive action |
| SA2 | Food provision | Mandate implementation of the 'Right Bite' canteen policy in all schools / preschools. Monitor compliance and introduce reporting mechanisms, incentives and stronger support systems to increase awareness and compliance | 'Right Bite' school canteen policy is mandated for schools and preschools. Principals and Governing Councils are responsible for ensuring the policy is adhered to. Support and advice is provided through online resources and through the Department of Education. A review of Right Bite is planned, and an awareness and communication campaign will be included. | Some action |
| SA3 | Food promotion | Restrict the promotion of unhealthy food and beverages in settings controlled / managed by the South Australian Government | Through the COAG Health Council (CHC) Obesity Working Group, the SA Department of Health and Wellbeing (DHW) has contributed to the development of a national interim guide to reduce the exposure of children to unhealthy food and drink marketing in settings under government control. This was endorsed by CHC in August 2018. | Some action |
| SA4 | Monitoring and intelligence | Implement ongoing monitoring of food environments, including the marketing of unhealthy foods to children, and the nutritional quality of food available in schools and public sector settings | The Department of Education provided a grant to the SA Schools Canteen Network to provide support to school canteens and facilitate menu audits and product assessment services for schools. PPHB is planning a review of the Healthy Food and Drink Choices for Staff and Visitors in SA Health Facilities policy. PPHB will develop a strategy to improve healthy food provision in government (e.g., schools, prisons, health facilities) and monitoring mechanisms will be considered within the future strategy. | Some action |
| SA5 | Leadership | Support local governments to develop and implement Regional Public Health Plans that include actions to create healthy food environments and improve population nutrition | The State Public Health Plan (2019-24) encourages local councils to consider healthy food environments and nutrition through building stronger communities, healthier environments, and preventing chronic disease. The 'Creating Healthier Local Food Environments - A Guide for Local Government' resource tool was developed to assist local councils in assessing their policies, plans and practices in relation to supporting healthy eating (City of Adelaide is currently implementing recommendations from the tool). | Some action |
| SA6 | Funding and resources | Establish an independent, statutory health promotion agency, with a secure funding stream, that includes an objective to improve population nutrition | Under the <i>Better Prevention for a Healthy South Australia policy</i> , the new SA Government has committed to establish "Wellbeing SA" as a Prevention, Health Promotion and Primary Health Care agency, within SA Health. Separate from hospitals and health services, Wellbeing SA will be able to advocate for and purchase services in public health and health promotion – it will include a health promotion branch and focus on preventing health issues before they arise. | Substantive action |
| SA7 | Food promotion | Require all organisations that receive funding from the South Australian Government to restrict all promotion (including sponsorship) related to unhealthy food and beverages as a condition of receiving funding | A short clause, reflecting a requirement to ensure food provision and partnerships are in line with national nutrition guidelines, has been trialled within service agreements for workplace health with peak industry bodies. | Some action |

| | | | | |
|------|-----------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| SA8 | Food provision | Establish a whole-of-government policy on healthy food procurement and provision across all SA Government departments and settings under government control | PPHB will progress improvements in healthy food provision in government settings including schools, children's sport and recreation settings, health facilities and prisons. Two new public health nutrition positions have been established, and steps have been taken to review policies in relation to public sector health care facilities and to explore opportunities for healthy food procurement. | Some action |
| SA9 | Support for communities | Commit to ongoing, long-term support for social marketing campaigns promoting healthy eating, as part of broader efforts to improve population nutrition | PPHB Strategic Plan 2018-2020 identifies 'Communication and social marketing' as a key function of the Branch. Social marketing campaigns have been undertaken in relation to several initiatives that include a healthy eating component, including Healthy Kids Menu Initiative, Healthy Workers Healthy Futures (2017-18 final campaign), Get Healthy (2018 advertising campaign). | Some action |
| SA10 | Support for communities | Building on the work of OPAL, put in place overarching state-wide structures and resources, to provide broad and coordinated support for creating and maintaining healthy food environments at the community level across multiple settings | DHW funds the SA Community Foodies program which aims to increase knowledge and healthy behaviours in vulnerable communities. Through the Healthy Towns Challenge (launched June 2018), the state government will invest \$1 million over four years to provide grants to regional towns to develop approaches to reduce preventable diseases and improve healthy wellbeing. There are several resources in place to support workplaces, food outlets and community/primary health care settings. | Some action |
| SA11 | Food retail | Develop and implement programs to incentivise sports and recreation venues and clubs to sell healthier foods and beverages whilst limiting unhealthy foods and beverages | DHW actively contributes to the Obesity Working Group under CHC, of which one of the prevention actions is limiting the impact of unhealthy food and drink on children within children sport and recreation settings. The Healthy Kids Menu initiative sets criteria for healthy food provision, and one recreation centre and two surf lifesaving clubs have signed on to the initiative. | Some action |
| SA12 | Food provision | Provide greater support for early childhood services to develop and implement best practice healthy food policies | The Department of Education's Learning Together Program incorporates nutrition and healthy eating, and supports families to make healthy food choices. Some Learning Together programs have partnered with community organisations (e.g., KickStart for Kids, Foodbank, Community Foodies and Community Food SA) to provide access to healthier foods and support in cooking meals. | Some action |
| SA13 | Food retail | Explore applying the 'Healthy Kids Menus Initiative' to all food service outlets / restaurants, including schemes to incentivise restaurants, pubs and clubs to improve the healthiness of menu options | The Healthy Kids Menu (HKM) initiative is currently running in SA with >40 food outlets signed on board. HKM has also partnered up with ICT & Digital Government to run a 'D3 challenge' for HKM. As a result, a local business has received seed funding from the challenge to rollout their business model that is focused on providing pre-prepared healthy kids meal items to food outlets. | Some action |
| SA14 | Monitoring and intelligence | Introduce regular measuring of children's height and weight at key stages of primary and secondary schools, on an 'opt-out' consent basis | The Department of Education recognises that monitoring of children's height / weight would need to be part of a comprehensive program of health and wellbeing and is currently considering the development of a healthy living and physical education strategy. | Limited action |
| SA15 | Governance | Continue a health-in-all-policies approach to relevant government priorities. Ensure that where priorities are relevant to population nutrition / health issues, these are considered at each stage of the policy development process | The health-in-all-policies approach continues to be implemented by Health Determinants and Policy within the PPHB, including using Public Health Partner Authority (PHPA) Agreements. Where relevant, nutrition is considered as part of the work under the PHPA Agreements. A number of new agreements have been entered into that explicitly include nutrition considerations. | Substantive action |
| SA16 | Food labelling | Enhance existing menu labelling regulations by requiring food outlets to display interpretive nutrition labelling (e.g., adaptation of the HSR scheme) | In June, 2018 the ANZ Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation agreed that further targeted consultation is to be undertaken to improve and strengthen fast food menu labelling in Australia. DHW will continue to support this national agenda, however there are no plans to enhance menu labelling at the state level. | Some action |

Tasmanian Government

Actions taken (July 2016 - December 2018) in relation to the recommended policies from the 2017 Food Policy Index report

| | Domain | Recommended policy action | Progress in relation to recommended action | Assessment |
|------|-------------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| TAS1 | Funding and resources | Establish and lead a collaborative, state-wide coalition (such as the Tasmanian Food and Nutrition Coalition), with a long-term commitment of resources, that aims to address population nutrition and obesity | The Premier's Health and Wellbeing Advisory Council has been established to provide advice to government on cross-sector and collaborative approaches to improving the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians, particularly in the areas of physical activity, smoking and healthy eating. The Tasmanian Government, through the Department of Health, funds several non-government organisations to run programs focussed on increasing nutrition and physical activity. | Some action |
| TAS2 | Leadership | Provide resources for the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the 'Healthy Tasmania Strategy' | The Healthy Kids Toolkit website (deliverable of the Healthy Tasmania Strategy) and associated resources were successfully launched in 2017. In 2017-18, \$500,000 was made available for Healthy Tasmania Community Innovation Grants, of which \$25,000 went to healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco cessation and community. \$6.6 million will be available through the new Community Health Fund, to be launched in 2019, and prevention is anticipated to be included within the scope of this fund. | Substantive action |
| TAS3 | Food provision | Establish a whole-of-government policy on healthy food provision that applies across all Tasmania Government departments and settings under government control | Tasmania has contributed to progressing five key actions through the COAG Health Council to limit the impact of unhealthy food and drinks on children across education, sport and recreation and public healthcare facilities. Once these actions are completed, this work will provide leverage for further action at the state level. | Some action |
| TAS4 | Food provision | Provide strong incentives for all schools to implement the 'Move Well Eat Well' initiative (a health and wellbeing framework for schools) and associated Canteen Accreditation Program, strongly support and actively monitor implementation | The Tasmania Government continues to support the 'Move Well, Eat Well' initiative, and provides funding (up to 2021) for the Tasmanian School Canteen Association to promote healthy food / beverage provision in schools (supporting 63% of schools). The Healthy Tasmania Five Year Strategic Plan includes a commitment to have all Government schools working towards canteen accreditation by 2020, with \$100,000 going towards the Tasmanian School Canteen Association to achieve this goal, including some monitoring activities. | Substantive action |
| TAS5 | Support for communities | Commit to ongoing, long-term support for healthy eating social marketing campaigns, potentially collaborating with the food production, food service, tourism and health sectors, as part of efforts to improve population nutrition | The Tasmanian Department of Health funded the Heart Foundation to run the <i>Live Lighter</i> campaign in Tasmania until 30 June 2018. Evaluation results will be considered as part of the broader planning framework for social marketing, conducted as part of Healthy Tasmania. Eat Well Tasmania Inc. (funded by the Government) has developed a series of connected healthy eating social media campaigns. The Healthy Tasmania Community Challenge was conducted in early 2018 over 12 weeks. This was an online healthy challenge with associated incentives. Evaluation showed strong participation. | Some action |
| TAS6 | Food promotion | Implement policies to restrict the promotion of unhealthy food and beverages in settings controlled or managed by the Tasmania Government | Tasmania has contributed to progressing five key actions through the COAG Health Council to limit the impact of unhealthy food and drinks on children across education, sport and recreation and public healthcare facilities. Once finalised this work will provide useful tools and a foundation to leverage action across government controlled settings. | Some action |
| TAS7 | Food retail | Work with supermarkets and retailers to improve availability of healthy foods and decrease availability / promotion of unhealthy foods in retail settings, using Eat Well Tasmania as a framework for engagement | Eat Well Tasmania Inc. (funded by the Tasmanian Government) has been pursuing opportunities to engage with the retail sector, in particular with IGA - this preliminary work is ongoing. Hill Street Grocers (a state-wide fresh produce outlet linked to IGA) was actively involved in Eat Well Tasmania's summer social media campaign of 2017/18 promoting the <i>Get Fruity and Veg It Up</i> messages. | Some action |
| TAS8 | Food promotion | Require all organisations that receive funding from the Tasmania Government to restrict all promotion (including sponsorship) related to unhealthy food and beverages as a condition of receiving funding | The COAG Health Council is considering a series of actions to limit the impact of unhealthy food and drinks on children across education, sport and recreation and public healthcare facilities. The Tasmanian Government has also provided funding for the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's Good Sports program to expand their existing Good Sports programs and implement a "Good Sports Healthy Eating" program. | Some action |

| | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|---|--|--------------------|
| TAS9 | Monitoring and intelligence | Implement ongoing monitoring of food environments, including the marketing of unhealthy foods to children, and the nutritional quality of food in schools and public sector settings | The Tasmanian School Canteen Accreditation Program monitors the menus of schools food service that have achieved canteen accreditation. This provides a breakdown of the number of schools accredited and the nutritional quality of the food provided by the percentage of green, amber and red foods on the menu. | Some action |
| TAS10 | Monitoring and intelligence | Provide funding for oversampling for Tasmania in the triennial National Health Survey for the purposes of monitoring BMI and key nutrition indicators of children and adults | The sample size for Tasmania in the current NHS 2017/18 is deemed to be adequate as the Australian Bureau of Statistics has allocated more sample to Tasmania than expected under the "normal" allocation method. The Tasmanian Population Health Surveys monitors BMI and several nutrition indicators for adults. | Substantive action |
| TAS11 | Monitoring and intelligence | Monitor prices of healthy and unhealthy foods across Tasmania every 3 years, through the Healthy Food Access Survey | The Tasmanian Government is maintaining a watching brief on a number of attempts in the academic sector to develop a national model for monitoring price and availability of healthy/unhealthy foods. | Some action |
| TAS12 | Food retail | Provide co-ordinated support for local communities to access healthy produce and promote healthy eating, continuing the work of the Healthy Food Access Project | Eat Well Tasmania Inc. is funded to influence healthy eating in Tasmania and connect the local food industry with the community. Part of a funded program (2018-21) will involve promoting access to local produce through community, grower and local retailer networks. Multiple Healthy Tasmania Innovations grants (in 2017) focussed on community access to local, healthy foods. | Substantive action |
| TAS13 | Support for communities | Improve support for school teachers to implement nutrition education as part of the national curriculum | The COAG Health Council is currently developing Good Practices for Supporting Healthy Eating and Drinking at Schools. A key component will support teaching and learning on nutrition and will provide leverage to support teachers to implement nutrition education as part of the national curriculum. Tasmania is taking an active lead in this work. The Move Well Eat Well program provides relevant curriculum units for teachers and Master of Education students, including how to implement nutrition education as part of the national curriculum. | Some action |
| TAS14 | Food provision | Require that locally sourced foods constitute a given proportion (e.g., 25%) of the food provided in school canteens, as part of the 'Move Well Eat Well' initiative and / or the Canteen Accreditation Program | Whilst there is no requirement that local foods constitute a given proportion of the foods provided in school canteens, Eat Well Tasmania works closely with the Move Well Eat Well and Tasmanian School Canteen Accreditation programs to encourage use of local, seasonal produce and linking the programs to local growers and retailers. | Some action |
| TAS15 | Governance | Implement formal health impact assessments as part of policy development processes, including explicit details about potential impacts of policies on population nutrition and health | No specific progress on this recommended policy action has occurred although the Department of Premier and Cabinet is considering exploring work on Health in All Policies during the 2018-19 financial year. | Limited action |
| TAS16 | Food retail | Develop guidelines and offer co-ordinated support to local governments on ways to decrease access to unhealthy take-away foods through planning provisions | Public Health Services, in the Department of Health, is looking to explore the concept of liveable cities during 2018-19 including issues associated with the food environment. | Limited action |
| TAS17 | Food retail | Develop and implement programs to incentivise sports and recreation venues and clubs to sell healthier foods and beverages whilst limiting unhealthy foods and beverages | The COAG Health Council is currently considering a series of actions to limit the impact of unhealthy food and drinks on children across education, sport and recreation and public healthcare facilities. This, along with recent funding, of the Good Sports program in Tasmania will provide opportunities to progress action in this area. The Alcohol and Drug Foundation has received 2 years funding (June 2018-2020) to implement the Good Sports Enhanced Community Clubs Program in community sporting clubs across Tasmania. This includes piloting the Good Sports Healthy Eating program which promotes healthy foods in clubs via healthy foods for fundraising, provision of water and a commitment to sell of healthy food and drinks. | Some action |
| TAS18 | Food retail | Develop and implement programs to incentivise restaurants, pubs and clubs to improve the healthiness of their menu options, building on the 'Healthy Options Tasmania' approach | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |

Victorian Government

Actions taken (July 2016 - December 2018) in relation to the recommended policies from the 2017 Food Policy Index report

| | Domain | Recommended policy action | Progress in relation to recommended action | Assessment |
|------|-----------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| VIC1 | Support for communities | Put in place overarching state-wide structures and resources to support the creation and maintenance of healthy food environments at the community level across multiple settings | The Victorian Government has a suite of Healthy Choices policy guidelines for sport and recreation facilities, hospitals, health services, universities, workplaces and parks, as well as aligned policies for schools and early childcare settings that provide consistent healthy food supply standards across multiple settings. To support implementation across the state, the Victorian Government funds the Healthy Eating Advisory Service (HEAS) to coordinate support across these settings to improve the supply and promotion of healthy foods and drinks, and to reduce the supply of unhealthy options. In 2018, HEAS released <i>FoodChecker</i> , an online menu assessment tool, to assist retailers in aligning with the Healthy Choices guidelines. The Victorian Healthy Eating Enterprise is a state-wide platform providing resources, networking, coordination and collaboration opportunities to communities and organisations implementing healthy eating initiatives, engaging more than 300 partners from across the health sector and state at four roundtable events each year. | Some action |
| VIC2 | Food provision | Establish a whole-of-government policy on healthy food procurement and provision across all Victorian government departments and settings under government control | There is work underway to develop a Department of Human Services Healthy Food Procurement policy which would require staff across Victoria to make healthier choices when purchasing catering using government funds. | Some action |
| VIC3 | Monitoring and intelligence | Implement ongoing monitoring of food environments, including the marketing of unhealthy foods to children, and the nutritional quality of food available in schools and public sector settings | There is no systematic and comprehensive monitoring of food environments. The HEAS collects data on its level of engagement with all settings and the organisations that are working towards or have met Healthy Choices, and other healthy eating policies and guidelines. | Some action |
| VIC4 | Food provision | Improve compliance with the 'School Canteens and Other School Food Services Policy' in all schools by extending reporting mechanisms, incentives and support systems | The Victorian Government funds HEAS to provide free support to schools in implementing the Department of Education and Training (DET) <i>School Canteens and Other School Food Services policy</i> . Early childhood services also receive free support from HEAS to meet the National Quality Standards on healthy eating through HEAS. There are no new incentive programs in place. | Some action |
| VIC5 | Food promotion | Require all organisations that receive funding from the Victorian Government to restrict all promotion (including sponsorship) related to unhealthy food and beverages as a condition of receiving funding | Implementation of the Healthy Choices guidelines is a condition of receiving Better Indoor Stadiums and Community Sport Infrastructure (Better Pools category) Funds, which provides up to \$3 million to local council stadium and pool infrastructure projects, through Sports and Recreation Victoria. VicHealth has been working with sporting organisations to help inform next steps to reduce junk food sponsorship in sports. | Some action |
| VIC6 | Food retail | Develop guidelines and support local governments to improve the availability of healthy foods and decrease the availability and promotion of unhealthy foods in retail settings | HEAS and the Healthy Choices policy guidelines provide support to local government to improve the availability and promotion of healthy food and drinks in key retail settings. In 2018, 92% of Victorian local governments have prioritised healthier eating in their Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plans. VicHealth's Water in Sport Initiative 2017-20 supports 8 local governments to make water the drink of choice in canteens/retail food outlets in sport and active recreation facilities. | Some action |
| VIC7 | Food promotion | Implement policies to restrict the promotion of unhealthy food and beverages in settings controlled or managed by the Victorian Government | Implementation of the (voluntary) Healthy Choices guidelines within sport and recreation centres includes food promotion targets, and states that organisations should not engage in sponsorship, marketing, branding or advertising to children and youth of foods and drinks inconsistent with Healthy Choices. Victoria has contributed to the development of a national interim guide for reducing children's exposure to unhealthy food and drink marketing, for voluntary use by governments. | Some action |
| VIC8 | Governance | Implement formal health impact assessments on population nutrition and health as part of the policy development and proposal process | The <i>Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2019</i> and associated outcomes framework and action plan guides population nutrition activities across government. There are no requirements to include formal health impact assessments on population nutrition and health as part of the policy development process. | Limited action |
| VIC9 | Food retail | Amend the planning framework to explicitly make health and healthy food environments a priority in state planning, to facilitate local governments in limiting the placement / density of unhealthy food outlets while supporting healthy food outlets | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |

| | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| VIC10 | Food provision | Demonstrate long-term commitment and support for the 'Achievement Program' and the 'Healthy Eating Advisory Service', supporting public / private-sector settings to implement healthy food policies | The Victorian Government is committed to increasing access to healthy foods in multiple settings through the Healthy Choices and other healthy eating policies and guidelines, the HEAS and the Achievement Program (AP). The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has revised the AP, but continues a focus on healthy eating and support for settings to implement healthy food policies. Alfred Health collaborates with HEAS and AP to support the uptake of the Healthy Choices policy in hospitals and health services. | Substantive action |
| VIC11 | Support for communities | Integrate practical skills in growing and cooking foods, and nutrition information, into the school curriculum across all school years in a way that supports existing teaching priorities | The Victorian Government funded the Playground to Plate Grants Scheme, administered by the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation. The scheme provided 100 government primary schools with a one-off \$5,000 infrastructure grant to establish or enhance a kitchen garden program. The Stephanie Alexander program has also been funded to expand its program through the Pleasurable Food Education Package, which reaches 250 early childhood services, primary and secondary schools. | Some action |
| VIC12 | Food retail | Implement programs to incentivise sports and recreation clubs to sell healthier foods and beverages whilst limiting unhealthy foods and beverages | Through collaboration between Victorian Government stakeholders, implementation of the Healthy Choices guidelines, specific for sport and recreation facilities, has improved the healthiness of foods and drinks supplied within these settings. This has been incentivised through the embedding of the guidelines within Victorian Government facility funding grants, the support of lead adopters such as the YMCA Victoria, as well as research collaborations that demonstrate the business case for change. Consistent implementation support for food supply change has been provided through the HEAS. VicHealth has provided additional support to Regional Sports Assemblies, State Sporting Associations, local governments, sports clubs, associations and sport and recreation facilities to trial retail nudges that promote healthy choices within sports venues. | Some action |
| VIC13 | Support for communities | Commit to ongoing, long-term support for social marketing campaigns promoting healthy eating, as part of broader efforts to improve population nutrition | In May 2018, the Victorian Government launched a small consumer education campaign and associated web resources to raise awareness and support the introduction of kilojoule menu labelling laws in chain food outlets. Phase 2 is being planned for 2018-19. VicHealth has invested in a social marketing campaign to promote healthier eating through reduced salt intake, with investment continuing in 2018 and 2019. | Some action |
| VIC14 | Monitoring and intelligence | Introduce regular measuring of children's height and weight at key stages of primary and secondary schools, on an 'opt-out' consent basis | Deakin University has partnered with the DET, DHHS, VicHealth, primary care partnerships and health services in Northern Victoria to trial a whole-of-community approach to childhood obesity prevention. As part of this study, school level direct height and weight measurements will be taken. | Some action |
| VIC15 | Food labelling | Extend the proposed implementation of kilojoule menu labelling in fast food chains to apply to more settings (e.g., cinemas) with potential adaptation of the HSR scheme for menu labelling | <i>The Food Amendment (Kilojoule Labelling Scheme and Other Matters) Act 2017</i> came into effect in Victoria on 1 May 2018 requiring certain large chain food outlets and supermarkets to display kilojoules on their menus, and food tags as well as display 'the average daily adult energy intake is 8,700 kJ'. Future policy responses will be considered once the evaluation of the kilojoule labelling scheme in Victoria has taken place. | Some action |
| VIC16 | Food retail | Implement programs, e.g., incentives or accreditation schemes, for restaurants, pubs and clubs to improve the healthiness of menu options, building on the 'Healthy Dining Victoria - Pubs and Clubs' initiative | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| VIC17 | Governance | Establish governance structures to improve policy coherence regarding agriculture, food, health, and innovation / research and development policies | Collaboration between DHHS and Agriculture Victoria, has led the Healthy Choices guidelines to be incorporated into the Boost your Business Guidelines under the Food innovation Voucher Stream. Businesses were encouraged to consider the guidelines in their applications. | Some action |
| VIC18 | Governance | Modify the government lobby register to require more detailed reporting, including details of specific lobbying activities | The Victorian Register of lobbyists is a public online platform that contains information about lobbyists who make representation to government on behalf of their clients. The Victorian Public Sector Commissioner maintains the register. No changes in reporting requirements have recently been made. | Limited action |
| VIC19 | Governance | Improve transparency of political donations by introducing online, real-time declaration of political donations over \$1,000 | The Electoral Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 overhauled Victoria's political donations regime by eliminating large donations (donations capped at \$4000 over 4 years) and ushered in Australia's most transparent donation disclosure laws. All donations over \$1000 need to be disclosed in real-time. | Substantive action |

Western Australian Government

Actions taken (July 2016 - December 2018) in relation to the recommended policies from the 2017 Food Policy Index report

| | Domain | Recommended policy action | Progress in relation to recommended action | Assessment |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| WA1 | Monitoring and intelligence | Implement ongoing monitoring of food environments, including the marketing of unhealthy foods to children, and the nutritional quality of food available in schools and public sector settings | The Department of Health conducted an audit of WA Health food and drink outlets to measure compliance with the Healthy Options WA: Food and Nutrition Policy for WA Health Services and Facilities. Annual surveys of school principals are conducted which contain a school canteen component. The North Metropolitan Health Service has trialled food environment assessment tools for sport and recreation centres, available to selected local governments. The East Metropolitan Health Service is conducting a Food Outlet Mapping project to support 13 local councils in factoring in public health nutrition risk in planning decisions. In 2017, the Food Access and Costs Survey was conducted again to monitor the availability and cost of healthy food. | Substantive action |
| WA2 | Support for communities | Continue to invest in sustained, high quality state-wide public education campaigns promoting healthy eating, as part of broader efforts to improve population nutrition | The Department of Health continues to fund a range of evidence based, state-wide public education programs for obesity prevention in adults and children. This includes <i>LiveLighter</i> (a comprehensive state-wide healthy lifestyle promotion and education program that encourages healthy eating and active lifestyles) and a range of other education programs. | Substantive action |
| WA3 | Leadership | Develop guidelines to support local governments to implement public health and wellbeing plans under the Public Health Act 2016, and detail how to incorporate policies for creating healthy food environments and improving population nutrition | The Department of Health has developed and uploaded a practical, web-based resource to provide guidance to local governments on creating healthy food environments. In March 2018, the Department of Health published the 'Public Health Planning Guide for Local Government' which provides guidance on how to meet the requirements of public health planning within in the Public Health Act 2016. They have also developed a searchable inventory of local government health promotion programs/initiatives in each area, and have undertaken a range of initiatives to support local governments in this area. | Substantive action |
| WA4 | Food promotion | Implement policies to restrict the promotion of unhealthy food and beverages in settings controlled or managed by the Western Australian Government | In 2018, the WA government announced a ban on alcohol advertising on public transport, starting with trains/train stations. The WA Preventative Health Summit (held in March 2018) identified the removal of unhealthy food and drinks promotions from state-owned assets as a key area for action. VenuesWest has begun piloting implementation of healthy food and drink policies in selected government-owned and self-managed sports venues. | Some action |
| WA5 | Food provision | Establish a whole-of-government policy on healthy food procurement and provision across all WA Government departments and settings | A key priority from the WA Preventative Health Summit was to introduce healthy food policies across WA Government Departments and agencies. Following the Summit, the WA Minister for Health requested that audits be conducted across WA health services and facilities to improve compliance with the Healthy Options WA Policy. Results of these audits will help to inform a review and strengthening of the Policy in 2019. | Some action |
| WA6 | Food promotion | Require all organisations that receive funding from the WA Government to restrict all promotion (including sponsorship) related to unhealthy food and beverages as a condition of receiving funding (use Healthway co-sponsorship policy or 'WA Health Sponsorship Policy' as a model) | The Healthway co-sponsorship model is still in place. Healthway has engaged with the WA School Canteen Association to support the enforcement of healthy food and beverage provision at Healthway-funded programs and events since 2013. Healthway has begun preliminary work with Lotterywest to support the development and implementation of a "Healthy Event Guidelines" so that Lotterywest funded events can provide healthy food and beverage options, and limit availability and promotion of unhealthy food and beverage products. | Some action |

| | | | | |
|------|-----------------------------|---|--|--------------------|
| WA7 | Food provision | Improve awareness and compliance with the 'School Healthy Food and Drink Policy' in all schools by extending reporting mechanisms, incentives and support systems | The Department of Health continues to fund the WA School Canteen Association to support public schools to implement the Healthy Food and Drink Policy. The Department of Health also funds Foodbank WA to deliver the School Breakfast and Nutrition Education Program which complements implementation of the Policy by providing children from low socio-economic backgrounds with access to healthy food and nutrition education. | Some action |
| WA8 | Food labelling | Implement mandatory nutrition labelling on menus at food service outlets, in line with regulations in other States / Territories | The Department of Health is currently investigating the feasibility of including kilojoule labelling on menus in quick service food outlets. | Some action |
| WA9 | Food retail | Amend the planning framework to explicitly make healthy food environments a priority in state planning, as a way to facilitate local governments limiting the placement / density of unhealthy food outlets while supporting healthy food outlets | The Department of Health submitted a policy response to a green paper (May 2018) <i>"Proposals for modernising the planning system"</i> , highlighting the changes to the WA planning system required to ensure health is a relevant consideration. The <i>WA Preventive Health Summit</i> identified amending planning regulations to prioritise considerations of community health and wellbeing, and supporting local governments to develop healthy food environment / population nutrition plans as areas for action. | Some action |
| WA10 | Support for communities | Put in place overarching state-wide structures and resources for supporting healthy food environments at the community level across multiple settings | Healthway is currently supporting the WA School Canteen Association (WASCA) to develop and deliver the <i>Fuel to Go and Play</i> project to support child play centres to improve the healthiness of food provision and support for communities in this area. Healthway also continues to support the <i>Crunch&Sip</i> initiative in schools. There is no state-wide structure in place to support communities to co-ordinate comprehensive local-level interventions. | Some action |
| WA11 | Governance | Establish governance structures to improve policy coherence regarding agriculture, food, health, and innovation / research and development policies | The Department of Health is mapping wider public sector agency policies and programs that align with the obesity / chronic disease prevention agenda more broadly. The Directorate is identifying several areas where policy priorities intersect and opportunities for further collaboration / partnerships. | Some action |
| WA12 | Food provision | Continue to invest in state-wide initiatives that support workplaces to make cultural, environmental and policy changes promoting positive lifestyle behaviours amongst employees | The Department of Health continues to invest in the Healthier Workplace WA program. This program provides a number of free services to support workplaces state-wide to make cultural, environmental and policy changes that support and encourage positive lifestyle behaviours amongst employees. | Substantive action |
| WA13 | Food retail | Develop and implement programs to incentivise sports and recreation clubs to sell healthier foods and beverages whilst limiting unhealthy food and beverages | South Metropolitan Health Service provides support to increase the availability of healthier foods and beverages, including a small grants scheme for sporting clubs in the region. East Metropolitan Health Service is working with Healthway and the WA Canteen Association to increase the availability of healthy options across all Little Athletics Clubs in the region. | Some action |
| WA14 | Governance | Strengthen the requirements for health impact assessments to include explicit consideration of potential impacts of policies on population nutrition and health | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| WA15 | Monitoring and intelligence | Introduce regular measuring of children's height and weight at key stages of primary and secondary schools, on an 'opt-out' consent basis | All children enrolled in WA primary schools are offered height, weight, BMI assessment. In WA, secondary school child measurement is available upon request. It is not undertaken on a universal basis. | Limited action |
| WA16 | Governance | Improve transparency of political donations by introducing online, real-time declaration of political donations over \$1,000 | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |
| WA17 | Governance | Modify the government lobby register to require more detailed reporting, including details of specific lobbying activities | No specific progress has occurred since 2016. | Limited action |

Acknowledgements

This project was conducted by researchers within the Global Obesity Centre, a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Obesity Prevention within the Institute for Health Transformation at Deakin University, in conjunction with the Obesity Policy Coalition.

Funding for this project has been provided from the Australian Government's Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). The MRFF provides funding to support health and medical research and innovation, with the objective of improving the health and wellbeing of Australians. MRFF funding has been provided to The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre under the Boosting Preventative Health Research Program. Further information on the MRFF is available at www.health.gov.au/mrff. Gary Sacks is the recipient of an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DE160100307) and a Heart Foundation Future Leader Fellowship from the National Heart Foundation of Australia.

The project forms part of INFORMAS (International Network for Food and Obesity/NCD's Research, Monitoring, Action and Support), a global network of public interest organisations and researchers that seek to monitor and benchmark public and private sector actions to create healthier food environments and reduce obesity and NCD's globally.

We would like to thank all of the government officials that contributed their time and expertise to this report.

The contents of this published material are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not reflect the views of the funding partners.

Cite this report as: Sacks G, Robinson E for the Food-EPI Australia project team. Policies for tackling obesity and creating healthier food environments: 2019 Progress update, Australian governments. Melbourne: Deakin University, 2019.

For more details on the Healthy Food Environment Policy Index (Food-EPI) project go to: www.foodpolicyindex.org.au

