

12th April 2016

Ms Harriette Carr
Principal Advisor - Public Health
Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy

Re: Draft Organisational Healthy Food and Drink Policy

Dear Harriette,

Thank you very much for providing Allied Health Aotearoa New Zealand with the opportunity to feedback on the Draft Organisational Healthy Food and Drink Policy for District Health Boards [DHBs]. The document was circulated amongst our 28 members [please see footnote below] including Dietitians NZ and discussed at our bi-monthly meeting in Wellington on April 6th. It was of considerable interest given that many of our members work within the DHB and will be directly affected by the changes to their immediate food and drink environment.

The members felt the document was robust, feasible, able to be implemented without undue cost and overdue in light of our obesogenic environment. The policy provides the opportunity for Government health agencies to role model best practice in the sale of food and beverages and we hope that it will prompt other Government and non-Government health agencies to also follow it in due course.

Whilst there was some mention of ethnic diets and meeting the needs of those with particular dietary requirements, we wonder if this is an area that could be strengthened in the policy; for example providing a minimum range of vegetarian and / or gluten free options to meet the requirements of those who have the most common dietary needs.

The document also elicited some discussion amongst the membership as to whether it was intended to be an enforceable Policy or rather a Guideline. We were unsure as to the extent the policy would be monitored and enforced by the Ministry of Health and what if any consequences the DHB would be subjected to if the policy was not followed.

Thank you again for including AHANZ in your consultation. We trust the feedback has been useful and we look forward to receiving other Ministry of Health strategy and policy documents as they become available.

Kind regards



Petrina Turner-Benny
Chair
AHANZ

Footnote

Allied Health Aotearoa New Zealand [AHANZ] is the peak agency for allied health professional associations. Our 28 members meet bi-monthly in Wellington and provide a forum for representatives of allied health professional associations to work together to:

- Raise the profile of allied health professionals
- Develop reciprocal relationships with health sector and governmental stakeholders
- Be the connected voice for Allied Health Aotearoa New Zealand member associations
- Support member health professional associations
- Provide advice to Minister(s) and Ministry of Health
- Provide a forum to discuss issues between professions and issues of common interest
- Share resources, information and experience
- Educate and raise awareness of a wider view of health and wellbeing
- Promote employment and professional standards for Allied Health Aotearoa New Zealand member health professionals