

## Policy position: Healthy Food and Drink Provision within Healthway Partnerships

### Purpose

This policy position outlines Healthway's approach to Healthy Food and Drink Provision within its Partnership Program.

### Background

Healthway's Strategic Plan; *Active, Healthy People: 2018-2023* identifies "Increasing Healthy Eating" as one of five strategic priority and key action areas.

Individual behaviour to make healthy choices can thrive in supportive environments with accessible and affordable healthy food choices. Evidence suggests that environmental and policy interventions may be among the most effective strategies for creating population-wide improvements in healthy eating<sup>1</sup>.

### Policy approach

Healthway supports increasing healthy food and drink choices at funded events by creating settings that support healthy eating. As such, Healthway applies the following minimum funding conditions for event-based projects where food and drinks are offered for sale:

- Sugary drinks will not be on display; and
- Funded organisations will encourage the attendance of food vendors from the Healthier Vendor Guide, or vendors who are able to offer food and drink choices that are consistent with the assessment criteria for inclusion in the Guide.

Healthway will also provide support and advice at selected events to increase healthy food and drink choices at Healthway funded events. This may include:

- reviewing food vendor menus to categorise food and drinks as green, amber or red using a traffic light system
- providing practical advice and support in increasing healthier choices (green) and decreasing unhealthier (red) choices
- providing information about sugary drinks e.g. products that should not be on display; suitable alternative drinks
- strategies for engaging food vendors in the Healthier Vendor Guide.

Through this process, vendors meeting the traffic light criteria will be eligible for inclusion within the Healthier Vendor Guide.

In addition to the above, Healthway will work with funded organisations to identify other strategies to promote, educate and provide environments that support healthy food and drink options.

An organisation's ability to offer healthy food and drink options consistent with the traffic light system is taken into consideration in the assessment of funding applications.

## Definitions

**Traffic Light System:** A system of food classification based on food nutrient content and alignment with the Australian Dietary Guidelines. All food and drinks are classified as Green, Amber or Red. The nutrient criteria and colour coding is based on the Department of Health's *Healthy Options WA: Food and Nutrition Policy for WA Health*.

**Vendors:** An establishment which provides prepared food or drinks for public consumption.

**Display:** Display refers to product placement or location and product accessibility and visibility to the consumer. Sugary drinks will not be on display, meaning they will not be visible or advertised.

**Sugary Drinks:** These are drinks containing added sugar (except milk-based drinks) that have no or low nutritional value i.e. drinks with added sugar, sucrose, fructose, glucose, honey, fruit juice concentrate, fruit sugary syrups (i.e. used in frozen slushies) and deionised fruit juices.

## More information

For more information on Healthway's Policy Position on Healthy Food and Drink Provision within Partnerships please email [healthway@healthway.wa.gov.au](mailto:healthway@healthway.wa.gov.au).

**Last update:** February 2020.

**Review:** This policy will be reviewed in December 2021.

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<sup>i</sup> [Creating Healthy Food and Eating Environments: Policy and Environmental Approaches](#). Mary Story, Karen M. Kaphingst, Ramona Robinson-O'Brien, and Karen Glanz. Annual Review of Public Health 2008 29:1, 253-272.