Healthy Food and Drink Choices in NSW Health Facilities

Document Number: IB2006_051
Publication date: 19-Dec-2006
Functional Sub group: Corporate Administration - Governance
Corporate Administration - Communications
Population Health - Health Promotion
Personnel/Workforce - Occupational Health & Safety
Personnel/Workforce - Industrial and Employee Relations

Summary: This Information Bulletin relates to a former announcement by the Minister for Health in 2006 concerning the provision of healthier food and drink choices to staff and the general public through NSW Health facilities.

Author Branch: Centre for Health Advancement
Branch contact: Edwina Macoun 9391 9570


Audience: Managers
Distributed to: Public Health System, Community Health Centres, Dental Schools and Clinics, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Department of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals

Review date: 19-Dec-2011
File No.: 06/5462
Status: Active

Director-General
HEALTHY FOOD AND DRINK CHOICES IN NSW HEALTH FACILITIES

Background

In August 2006 the Minister for Health announced an initiative to improve the nutritional quality of food and drinks supplied to staff and the general public in NSW Health facilities in line with national dietary guidelines. The Minister’s announcement recognises that NSW Health is in a strong position to provide leadership and an exemplary role by promoting healthy eating in NSW Health facilities. It also acknowledges that because health care facilities are highly visible and support a large workforce it is important that they improve the range of healthy food and drink choices available to those who come into contact with, and work within, these facilities.

Current progress

Since the Minister’s announcement an Advisory Committee, chaired by the Chief Health Officer, has been established and is looking into the best way to progress this initiative in 2007. The Committee has representatives nominated by Area Health Services including the Children’s Hospital Westmead and key branches from the Department of Health. Area Health representatives include:

- Eleanor Sands, North Sydney & Central Coast AHS
- Kerry Balding and Emma Alley, North Coast AHS
- Christine Newman and Anne Hurst, Sydney West AHS
- Vicki Fleming, South East Sydney & Illawarra AHS
- Christine May, Greater Southern AHS
- Leanne Luther and Sheridan Collins, Children’s Hospital, Westmead
- Libby Campbell, Hunter New England Child Obesity Prevention Program
- Maria Kokkinakos, Sydney South West AHS

Scope of the initiative

In the interests of consistency, it is expected that the initiative will apply to all food and drinks supplied to staff and visitors in NSW Health facilities through a broad range of food outlets. This includes: staff cafeterias and canteens; cafes and kiosks; coffee carts; shops e.g. newsagents; vending machines; fundraising activities; catering for meetings and functions; retail outlets. However, the initiative will not apply to in-patients for whom nutrition is frequently part of their clinical management.

Further information

Updates on the initiative will be provided throughout the coming year. For further information please contact your Area Health Service representative as above or the Secretariat, Edwina Macoun 02 9391 9570 emaco@doh.health.nsw.gov.au.

Robyn Kruk

Director-General