

Western Australian School Canteen Association Inc.



Supporting healthy choices

Dear WASCA member

RE Changes to healthy food and drink support in WA

The Western Australian School Canteen Association Inc. (WASCA) provides advice, training and support to food services in schools and community settings to create healthy food environments and operate healthy food services.

Healthy Food and Drink project

Since 2006, we have implemented the Healthy Food and Drink Project funded by the Department of Health. Key activities included traffic light training, menu, product and recipe assessments, policy support and development of a range of tools and resources to assist schools to implement the Department of Education's Healthy Food and Drink in Public Schools (HFD) policy.

Schools and canteens play a key role in introducing, supporting, and teaching children and young people about healthy eating. Significant gains have been made since funding was first made available for the development of a mandatory HFD policy in WA schools. Our schools have the highest standard of food provision in the country, our canteen staff and volunteers have completed comprehensive training, and they continue to make improvements to their menus and operations. HFD policy implementation in WA is positively referred to by other jurisdictions as the benchmark and we have no doubt schools will continue to maintain this high standard.

The HFD project delivered by WASCA will officially cease as of 30 June 2022.

A new Whole of School Healthy Eating Program to support schools to implement the HFD Policy, funded by the Department of Health, will be replacing this project and will be delivered by Nutrition Australia Victoria (see [Tenders WA](#) for more information).

Key dates and changes in services

1 July - 31 January 2023

- To assist schools during the transition phase, access to a range of online HFD policy support tools and resources will still be available via the WASCA website

From 1 July 2022

- The advisory service, including menu, product and recipe assessments, will no longer be provided by WASCA
- You will still receive the Star Choice™ Buyers Guide from WASCA to assist in selecting appropriate products for the canteen
- HFD policy related enquiries should be directed to Nutrition Australia waschools@nutritionaustralia.org

From 1 July 2022

- Traffic light training and FoodSafe training currently provided by WASCA will no longer be available
- FoodSafe training can be accessed for free from some local councils by searching their food safety programs. Alternatively, [Environmental Health Australia](#) offer this training (fees apply)

January 2023

- A new Whole of School Healthy Eating Program website and online training to be launched by Nutrition Australia.

WASCA services

This is a significant change for schools. WASCA will continue to support schools where possible and promote best practice in all aspects of canteen operations through membership services and collaboration with key partners, such as the WA Council of State School Organisations (WACSSO).

Membership services include:

- General meetings, networking events and other professional development events throughout the year; including guest speakers
- Eligibility to apply for the Robin Bromley Visionary Grants program - 3 x \$1,000 grants each year
- Star Choice™ Registration Program and Buyer's Guides to assist you in selecting food and drinks that comply with the Department of Education's Healthy Food and Drink in Public Schools policy
- Comprehensive website, social channels and newsletters. Membership services are currently under review to ensure we support canteens to remain viable businesses and schools continue to create healthy food environments. Schools will have several opportunities in the coming months to help us set the direction of future services and confirm what is important to you.

Stay connected

Stay connected by visiting the WASCA website, following us on our social channels and reviewing our newsletters packed with the latest news, recipes, programs, events and offers. For further information about WASCA membership services visit the [WASCA website](https://www.wasca.org.au) or email wasca@education.wa.edu.au

Yours sincerely



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