



**Australian Government**  
**National Health and Medical Research Council**

## **SODIUM EXPERT WORKING GROUP**

### **Terms of Reference**

In 2013 a scoping process was undertaken to prioritise 2006 Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs) requiring review. In 2017 the Australian Government Department of Health (Health) and New Zealand Ministry of Health (NZMoH) published updates to some of the sodium and fluoride NRVs determined through the scoping process.

The Sodium Expert Working Group (SEWG) will provide expertise in reviewing and updating the following 2006 sodium NRVs that were not updated in 2017:

- Adequate intake for children and adolescents (1-18 years), adults (19+ years), pregnancy and lactation (14-50 years)
- Suggested Dietary Target for adults (19+ years)
- Upper Level of Intake for children and adolescents (1-18 years), pregnancy and lactation (14-50 years).

The work will form part of an ongoing review of priority nutrients being overseen by a Steering Group, comprising representatives of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Health and NZMoH.

Using the *Methodological framework for the review of Nutrient Reference Values*<sup>1</sup>, the SEWG will:

1. Determine the scope of the sodium NRV update based on consideration of:
  - the currency, accuracy and relevance of the existing 2006 sodium NRVs
  - the results of a Horizon Scan that identifies relevant international NRVs since the development of the 2006 NRVs
  - Expert Working Group members' expertise and knowledge of current evidence
  - any other information deemed relevant by NHMRC

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Government Department of Health. *Methodological Framework for the Review of Nutrient Reference Values*. Canberra. Commonwealth of Australia; 2020.

2. Advise on the evidence evaluation required to update the 2006 sodium NRVs
3. Oversee the update of the 2006 NRVs by considering (1) and (2) above including providing advice on:
  - developing sodium NRV recommendations
  - implications of the NRV recommendations (for example, increased fortification)
  - key stakeholders to be included in consultation activities
  - comments received during consultation and expert review on the draft revised NRVs.

The SEWG will report to the Steering Group.

Appointments to the SEWG will conclude 30 June 2022.