



Dietary Guidelines Governance Committee Terms of Reference

NHMRC has commenced a review of the [2013 Australian Dietary Guidelines](#) (the Guidelines).

This review will update the Guidelines and the Eat for Health companion resources to reflect the best available evidence and to be relevant to a broad range of Guidelines' users. The Dietary Guidelines Expert Committee (Expert Committee) will be established to advise on the work. To maintain transparency of both the overall process and the Expert Committee, it is important that conflicts of interest are managed effectively.

To this end, NHMRC will establish a Dietary Guidelines Governance Committee (Governance Committee) to advise on and develop management strategies for conflicts of interest that may arise during the review of the Guidelines. The Governance Committee is a section 39 Committee under the *National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992*, with appointment of members made by the Chief Executive Officer of the NHMRC.

Independent advice and management of interests and the potential for bias will support a transparent review process and increase stakeholder trust in the updated Guidelines.

The appointment of individuals to be members of the Governance Committee will have demonstrated expertise in areas such as conflicts of interest management, guideline development and review processes, research methodology, health ethics and of stakeholder influence on health research and policy.

The Governance Committee will:

1. Review the declared interests of individuals shortlisted by NHMRC to determine any potential, perceived or actual conflict of interest related to the work of the Expert Committee, aligning with the *NHMRC Declaration of Interest Policy 2019*
2. Assess the declared interests of contractors involved in the Guideline review
3. Develop management strategies for conflicts of interest on a case by case basis
4. Develop strategies to manage potential bias related to conflicts of interest in the evidence review
5. Attend Expert Committee meetings determined to be relevant by NHMRC, to provide support and advice in relation to managing conflicts of interest and bias in the evidence.



The Governance Committee will report to the Chief Executive Officer of NHMRC, through the NHMRC Public Health team. The Governance Committee will work in collaboration with the Expert Committee and any experts contracted by NHMRC to support the review process.

The term of appointment to the Governance Committee will commence on 10 January 2021 and conclude on 10 January 2024.