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3 August 2021

[REDACTED]
By email: [REDACTED]
Ref: H202108521

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 14 July 2021 for information relating to briefings identified within a written parliamentary question (WPQ) 27662.

You specifically requested:

"... copies of the briefings identified in the answer to the WPQ [Reply 27662]."

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) holds two documents within scope of your request. These two documents are outlined in Appendix 1 of this letter with a copy of the document being released enclosed.

I trust this fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases.

Nāku noa, nā

pp 

Deborah Woodley
Deputy Director-General
Population Health & Prevention

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
1	16 December 2020	Briefing HR20201786: Strengthening food environments: restricting marketing to children	This document is withheld in full under section 9(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.
2	31 January 2021	Briefing HR20201936: Strengthening food environments: monitoring and evaluation	<p>This document is released with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons;• Section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

COPY

Briefing

Strengthening food environments: monitoring and evaluation

Date due to MO:	31 January 2021	Action required by:	n/a
Security level:	IN CONFIDENCE	Health Report number:	20201936
To:	Hon Peeni Henare, Associate Minister of Health		
Copy to:	Hon Andrew Little, Minister of Health Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Health Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, Associate Minister of Health		

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Jane Chambers	Acting Group Manager, Public Health, Population Health and Prevention	s 9(2)(a)
Mary Ann Carter	Manager, Nutrition and Physical Activity, Population Health and Prevention	s 9(2)(a)

Minister's office to complete:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Decline | <input type="checkbox"/> Noted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change | <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn | |

Comment:

Strengthening food environments: monitoring and evaluation

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE **Date:** 31 January 2021

To: Hon Peeni Henare, Associate Minister of Health

Purpose of report

1. This report provides you with Paper Five: *Strengthening food environments: monitoring and evaluation*. This is part of a suite of papers that outline a proposed approach to strengthening New Zealand's food environments.


Summary

2. Up-to-date information on food and nutrient intakes is required to develop and monitor evidence-based policies and programmes to improve nutrition, reduce obesity and ensure food safety through accurate and appropriate food standards.
3. New Zealand has not collected this data in over a decade. Our knowledge of what people are eating is dated and there are gaps.
4. An understanding of New Zealanders' current food and nutrient intake is a necessary prerequisite to make any impact on reducing the rates of diet-related chronic conditions¹ at a population level. These conditions are a major cause of death, illness and disability in New Zealand, and disproportionately affect Māori and Pacific peoples.
5. A national nutrition survey is the most efficient and effective means to do this.
6. The Ministry will scope and design a national survey over the next three years, looking to implement the survey in 2023, if budget allows. You may wish to announce the commencing of this work.
7. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

¹ Type 2 diabetes, kidney disease, cardiovascular disease, stroke and some cancers.

Recommendations

We recommend you:

- a) **note** Ministry has commenced work to scope the nutrition survey
- b) **agree** to announce the national nutrition survey scoping **Yes/No**
- c) **invite** officials to further discuss the monitoring and evaluation approach **Yes/No**
- d) s 9(2)(f)(iv) 



Deborah Woodley
Deputy Director-General
Population Health and Prevention
Date:

Hon Peeni Henare
Associate Minister of Health
Date:

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Strengthening food environments: monitoring and evaluation

Background

1. Up-to date information on dietary intake and nutritional status are essential for developing and evaluating evidence-based policies and programmes to improve nutrition, reduce obesity, address food insecurity and ensure food safety through accurate and appropriate standards. Comprehensive national nutrition surveys in a representative sample of the New Zealand population are the only source of quantitative data on dietary intake and nutritional status.
2. A nutrition survey will help improve equity by providing the evidence base for developing policies to improve nutrition and reduce obesity. Māori and Pacific and those living in the most socioeconomically deprived neighbourhoods develop diet related non communicable diseases at an earlier age, live more years in poor health, and have higher mortality rates (Ministry of Health, 2020).
3. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), is reliant on current and robust food intake data generated from national nutrition surveys for its core business. Core services include protecting consumers from food safety risks and building consumer confidence in the food supply through developing food policy, food standards and guidance for industry and consumers. Data from nutrition surveys is required for scientific risk assessments, monitoring the safety of the food supply, to set Trans Tasman food standards and to monitor, evaluate and review food policies.
4. This paper outlines the current work underway to scope and design a national nutrition survey and is part of a package of proposals to reduce rates of diet related chronic conditions that negatively impact on health outcomes.
5. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Current context

6. Poor diet and obesity are leading causes of potentially avoidable health loss in New Zealand. In 2017, they each accounted for about 100,000 disability adjusted life years (Ministry of Health, 2020). However, our knowledge of what people are eating is dated and there are gaps. This substantially limits our ability to develop evidence based policies and programmes to improve nutrition, reduce obesity and improve food safety regulation.
7. New Zealand's most recent nutrition surveys were undertaken over a decade ago (2002 for children 2-14 years and 2008/09 for adults). Our food supply and population have changed substantially since the last surveys. In addition, we have no data for children under two years of age or for Asian people, the latter of whom were the third largest ethnic group in the 2013 Census.

Scope and design of a national nutrition survey

8. We have commenced work to scope the design of a national nutrition survey that will provide essential up-to date information on food and nutrient intakes for developing and monitoring evidence-based policies and programmes to improve nutrition, reduce obesity and ensure

food safety through accurate and appropriate food standards. A summary of benefits of investing in a nutrition survey is attached as Appendix One.

9. This scoping project will allow the Ministry to identify the best option for progressing a nutrition survey, (either a one-off survey or continuous survey) and the associated costs. Key deliverables from scoping include:
 - developing an appropriate survey methodology
 - identifying an appropriate sample design that includes key population groups and minimises sample bias
 - testing survey instruments so they are fit for purpose and will deliver high quality information
 - a pilot test of the survey.
10. The Ministry has allocated non-departmental expenditure budget of \$1 million over three years to undertake the scoping and design work.
11. Implementing the survey is a significant undertaking both in time and resource. We estimate costs to be in the range of \$4 million per year for ongoing annual surveys and would expect this to be jointly funded with MPI either through a future Budget round (Budget 2023 or 2024) or reprioritisation.

Monitoring food reformulation

12. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

13.

Monitoring food marketing

14. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

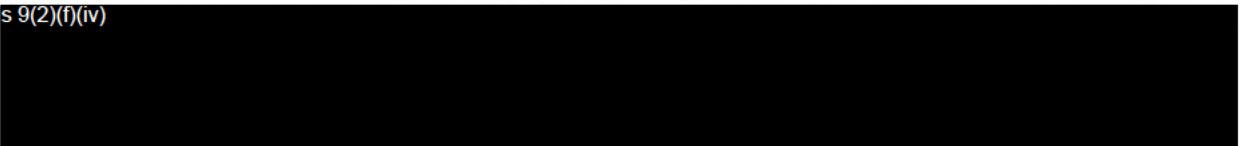
Next steps

15. We will proceed with the scoping and design of a national nutrition survey. A technical advisory group including representatives from the Ministry and MPI as well as identified academics with nutrition expertise will be appointed to provide advice during the project. A steering group including representatives of MPI and the Ministry will oversee the implementation of the project.

16. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

17.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



ENDS.

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Appendix One Summary of Benefits of nutrition survey investment

Item	Description	Benefactor
Monitoring health status	Monitoring health status and dietary risk factors, including identifying population groups with poor dietary intakes and nutritional deficiencies. For example, data from the 2002 Children's Nutrition Survey highlighted the re-emergence of iodine deficiency, which was subsequently addressed by mandating the use of iodised salt in bread.	Ministry of Health (MoH)
Refining and monitoring government policy	Updated information on dietary intake supports policy development that best addresses the needs of priority populations.	MoH
Updating dietary guidelines	Data on what and how much New Zealanders eat are required to inform and evaluate adherence to dietary guidelines.	MoH
Targeted interventions	A nutrition survey provides the information that allows government agencies and the health sector to develop and target interventions for the population groups most in need.	MoH, Ministries for Primary Industries (MPI), Ministry for Social Development (MSD) and health workforce
Scientific risk assessments	Data from the nutrition survey supports MPI to conduct scientific risk assessments to ensure the safety and suitability of the food supply. This includes assessment of dietary exposure to chemical residues, contaminants or toxins present in the food supply. Data is also used in rapid risk assessments that inform the management of food safety incidents and recalls.	MPI
Setting food standards	Ensuring the suitability of food standards in the New Zealand context requires dietary modelling of New Zealand diets, particularly of specific at-risk groups, and satisfies obligations for food in	MPI

Item	Description	Benefactor
	international trade under World Trade Organization obligations.	
Monitoring the food supply	Nutrition survey data is required to monitor, evaluate and review food policies, non-regulatory initiatives and standards that are based on estimates of dietary intake.	MPI, MoH
Supporting research	Anonymised individual level survey data will be available to researchers. National Science Challenges such as High Value Nutrition and Healthier Lives rely on accurate food and nutrient data to direct funding for research into significant areas of need.	Academics

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