

INTRODUCING THE NSW CENTRE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION

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NSW Centre for Public Health Nutrition

The NSW Centre for Public Health Nutrition was established in 2000, as an initiative of the NSW Department of Health in collaboration with the Nutrition Research Foundation of the University of Sydney. The purpose of the Centre is to assist and support NSW Health and public health practitioners to plan and implement high quality policies and programs that improve the nutrition of the NSW population. The Centre is a small team of public health professionals with expertise in population nutrition. Karen Webb, Ian Caterson, and Tim Gill are the academic directors of the Centre, which is located at the University of Sydney.

THE ROLE OF THE CENTRE

The role of the Centre for Public Health Nutrition involves reviewing research findings regarding nutrition policy and programs, and producing authoritative documents and guidelines, which inform nutrition interventions in NSW. The Centre undertakes work in four main streams:

- monitoring and surveillance;
- evidence-based planning;
- public health workforce development;
- applied research and evaluation.

The Centre's work within these streams addresses the nutrition priorities of public health, as identified in the NSW Health policy document *Eat Well NSW: Strategic Directions for Public Health Nutrition 2003–2007*. These priorities are: overweight and obesity, breastfeeding, vegetable and fruit consumption, and food security.

The Centre is now also a partner organisation in the NSW Centre for Overweight and Obesity, which was established in 2003. To this collaboration, the Centre for Public Health Nutrition brings specialist expertise in nutrition epidemiology, evidence-based planning for nutrition interventions, and applied research on nutrition.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE CENTRE

The Centre has recently published the following reports, which are available from its website:

- *Report on the weight status of NSW 2003*;
- *Report on breastfeeding in NSW 2004*;
- *Report on the consumption of vegetables and fruit in NSW 2003*;
- *Food Security Options Paper: A planning framework and menu of options for policy and practice interventions*.

Two further reports are due for publication in the near future:

- *Overview of recent reviews of interventions to promote and support breastfeeding*;
- *Best investments for promoting healthy weight*. ☒

For further information contact the Centre by telephone on (02) 9036 3005, by fax on (02) 9036 3184, by email at l.king@mmb.usyd.edu.au or cphn@mmb.usyd.edu.au, or visit the Centre's website at www.cphn.biochem.usyd.edu.au.