

Australia's Feedback on the Updates to Appendix 3 of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan

General comments:

- Australia's National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030 aims to improve the health and wellbeing of all Australians at all stages of life, through a whole-of-system approach to prevention.
- WHO's Global NCD Appendix 3 aligns with the focus areas identified in the National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030 that require critical action to reduce the risks of poor health and disease to help Australians live longer and healthier lives. These National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030 focus areas are nutrition, physical activity, tobacco, immunisation, cancer screening, alcohol and other drug use, and mental health.
- We strongly support Appendix 3, particularly ensuring that action plans remain based on scientific evidence to enable the achievement of previous commitments for prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.
- We support the focus on action to tackle complex problems such as unhealthy diet, harmful use of alcohol and physical inactivity.

Objective 3

- Australia strongly supports updates to Objective 3 (risk factors), particularly the addition of new recommendations on cost-effective interventions.
- We recommend the following amendments be made to further strengthen the proposed amendments to Appendix 3:
 - Adding in an illicit drugs intervention under objective 3. This would align with the focus area "Reducing Alcohol and Other Drug Harm" in Australia's National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030.
 - Adding in an intervention around providing consumer information regarding harm related to unhealthy foods, similar to the harmful use of alcohol intervention.
 - It is also critical to ensure that the information is accessible, trustworthy and translated for all populations.
 - Adding in an intervention regarding strengthening nutrition guidance, which is communicated appropriately for all health literacy levels.

Objective 4

- Australia strongly supports updates to Objective 4 (health systems), particularly the addition of new recommendations on effectiveness.
- We agree with the overarching/enabling actions in Objective 4, namely, to strengthen and orient health systems to address the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and the underlying social determinants through people-centred primary health care and universal health coverage; and to develop and implement a palliative care policy, including access to opioids analgesics for pain relief, together with training for health workers.
 - Australia has developed the National Palliative Care Strategy that includes palliative care being person-centred, and accessible. This includes working towards improved access to clinical and non-clinical service providers, early referrals and consistent assessment and screening practices.