COMMUNIQUÉ: Classification of school canteen products

Dear School Principals/Canteen Managers,

The Fresh Tastes @ School NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy has been operating in NSW Schools since 2004. It is endorsed by the NSW Government, Association of Independent Schools, and the Catholic Education Commission.

The Strategy includes nutrient criteria that classify the food and drinks that should be sold in school canteens. The model is based around a traffic light system with three broad categories; RED (“occasional, limit sale to no more than twice a term), AMBER (select carefully), and GREEN (fill the menu).

Some companies marketing products to schools are using alternative classification systems. These may take the form of other COLOUR categories, or some other statement of endorsement. It is important for schools to be aware that these are not part of the Fresh Tastes @ School Strategy.

The Fresh Tastes @ School classification system is the only system supported by the three education sectors in NSW and by the NSW Department of Health.

Further information on the Fresh Tastes @ School NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy, and the categories of classification can be found on the NSW Healthy Kids School Canteen Website. http://www.healthy-kids.com.au/ or ph (02) 9953 2988.


The NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy is a partnership between the NSW Department of Education and Training, the NSW Department of Health, the Catholic Education Commission and the Association of Independent Schools.