Food policy for future generations: integrating public health and environmental goals

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Research question

How well does Australian food policy integrate public health and environmental goals?

Research aim

Describe Australian food policy, and identify:

- The content in relation to public health and environmental goals.
- The factors that led to the decision for that content.

Why is this important?

Concerns have been raised for the human and environmental capacity to achieve and maintain global food security. 1, 2 In addition, ongoing human pressures could change our ecosystems. If this occurs human health could be harmed, due to less food and clean freshwater. 3 The Integration of public health and environmental goals, into food policy may help address these concerns.

Research objectives

1. Review international good practice of food policy approaches that integrate public health and environmental goals.
2. Describe a theoretical ideal Australian food policy that integrates public health and environmental goals.
3. Describe the extent to which current Australian food policy integrates public health and environmental goals.
4. Identify the barriers and opportunities for Australian food policy integrating public health and environmental goals.

The likelihood of policy coherence...

- There is a gap in the research concerning the processes of developing Australian food policy in relation to public health and environmental goals.
- There are many considerations when developing policy, including: regulation, governance, electorate needs, the electoral cycle and other government departments.
- What is unknown is how competing values and paradigms are managed when making policy decisions.

References


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