

Project title:	Review of strategies to integrate public health nutrition science into policymaking
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	25-30 hrs per week In person, Herston Campus, Public Health Building 887
Description:	Obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes, are leading causes of premature death and disability in Australia, the United States (US), and globally. Unhealthy diets are a key driver, worsened by the proliferation of cheap, palatable, and heavily marketed ultra-processed foods. These products now provide 40% of Australians' daily energy intake, with even higher levels in the US. The rise in ultra-processed food consumption reflects environments that promote their purchase and consumption. Policy can reshape these environments to make the "healthy choice the easy choice." Examples include taxes on unhealthy products, advertising restrictions to children, and mandatory front-of-pack labelling. While more than 100 countries have adopted such policies, Australia and the US have taken limited action. Why policy has stalled in these countries reflects their distinct regulatory and socio-political contexts. In Australia, federal-level control creates significant barriers to legislative change. In the US, authority spans federal, state, and local levels, resulting in wide variation. For example, Berkeley, California has multiple sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) policies, while Minnesota has none. Some states, such as Georgia, have even pre-empted local action and banned litigation linking company products to poor health. A critical factor to advancing policy is ensuring problems and solutions resonate with both policymakers and the public. Building evidence on how to increase the appeal of nutrition policy among policymakers is essential. Identifying optimal advocacy strategies could strengthen the use of science in policymaking and drive greater political action on nutrition-related NCDs in Australia and the US. This project seeks to identify evidence-based strategies for effectively integrating public health nutrition science into policymaking via a systematic scoping review. The summer scholar will join an international team (US and Australia) to assist with this review.
Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:	Scholars will develop skills in screening articles, extracting data, and potentially contributing to a publication. They will also gain insight into the workings of a multi-country research project.
Suitable for:	Suited to students with strong attention to detail and communication skills, and an interest in public health policy will be an advantage.
Primary Supervisor:	Associate Professor Katherine Cullerton k.cullerton@uq.edu.au (07) 3366 4619
Further info:	The supervisor CAN be contacted by students prior to submission of an application