

Government entities needed at the food table



Description of Government entities with a role in food policy

Key Government entities	Descriptions
Ministry for Primary Industries	Main policy making department for New Zealand's primary industries, including food. Functions include providing national direction on ensuring the food we produce is safe, enabling international market access for New Zealand's primary products, and representing the interests of the New Zealand primary sector in international trade policy and standard-setting forums.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Main policy-making department on international food trade, overseas aid (including food aid), overseas agriculture, and the Sustainable Development Goals.
Ministry of Health	Main policy-making department on diet-related health; nutrition-related health inequalities, planning and funding public health and monitoring the performance of District Health Boards.
Health Promotion Agency	Main communications agency to promote health, including healthy diets
Ministry for the Environment	Main policy-making department on environmental policy and provides national direction on urban (eg food density zoning laws) and rural planning (e.g., land use consents) through National Policy Statements and National Environment Standards. Also focuses on climate change, fresh water, marine, land, waste, soil, air, water, sea quality.
Ministries of Business, Innovation and Employment	Main policy-making department managing food and beverage industry investment, consumer protection, immigration (including migrant workers for food supply chain), business, industrial strategy, employment, energy, science, research and innovation (all with food relevance).
Food Standards Australia New Zealand	Develops and administers joint Australia and New Zealand food standards; explain food issues e.g., labelling, additives, chemicals; consult with the community about food safety issues; help food businesses understand the Food Standards Code.
Ministry of Education	Main policy-making department on education, skills and curriculum, with role as food educator and food provider.
Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor	Provides strategic advice across sectors and serves as an accessible conduit between the science community and government.
Local Government	Ensures public services are responsive to the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being needs of their communities with a particular role in zoning law, district or regional planning and community food supply initiatives for example.
District Health Boards	A role to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities, including planning and delivering services in their area.
The Treasury	Overall control of government spending.
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet	Overall policy oversight and coordination. Contains the Child Wellbeing and Poverty Reduction Group.
Te Puni Kokiri - Ministry of Māori Development	Input into major food policies as they relate to Māori.
Ministry for Pacific Peoples	Input into major food policies as they relate to Pacific People.
Ministry of Social Development	Main policy-making department on welfare and pensions, supporting people and whānau in food poverty.
Supporting government entities	Descriptions
Health Research Council of New Zealand	Sets priorities for research and funds research including on food and nutrition.
Broadcasting Standards Authority	Decides complaints about broadcasters; publish and research broadcasting standards.
Sport NZ	Oversees sports sponsorship.
Commerce Commission	Enforce laws that promote competition and protect consumers in New Zealand.
National Ethics Advisory Committee	Provides ethical advice on issues of national significance in respect of health and disability, including characteristics of a fair food system delivering nutritional outcomes.
Crown Research Institutes	AgResearch enhances the value, productivity and profitability of New Zealand's pastoral, agri-food and agri-technology sector value chains to contribute to economic growth and beneficial environmental and social outcomes for New Zealand. Plant and Food Research looks at enhancing the value and productivity of New Zealand's horticultural, arable, seafood and food and beverage industries to contribute to economic growth and the environmental and social prosperity of New Zealand. Institute of Environmental Science Research - ESR's science lies behind the decisions that safeguard people's health, protect our food-based economy, improve the safety of our freshwater and groundwater resources.
Health and Disability Commissioner	Works with clinicians, providers and consumers to improve health services including dietary advice and interventions.
The Office of the Children's Commissioner	Advocates for the interests of young people, ensuring the voices of children are heard in policy making.
Ministry for Culture and Heritage	Funds Broadcasting Standards Authority, NZ on Air and Sport NZ.
Ministry of Transport	Main policy-making department on transport, with role in supporting infrastructure for food distribution and public transport (including for food workers and customers).
Department of Corrections	Main department with role as food provider to prisons.
Department of Internal Affairs	Conduit for Local and Central Government.
State Services Commission	Sets standards for public servants and policy making, including the management of conflicts of interest for food policies.
New Zealand Customs Service	Provides border control and protects the community from potential risks related to food arising from international trade and travel, as well as collecting duties and taxes on imports to the country.
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	Main policy-making department on housing, built environment and urban development.