



**To:** Hon Andrew Hoggard, Minister for Food Safety  
**From:** Sarah Reader, Acting Director Regulatory Systems Policy

## Biography and suggested topics for meeting with Hon Chris Picton, South Australian Minister for Health and Wellbeing

<b>Date</b>	18 July 2024	<b>Reference</b>	AM24-0709
-------------	--------------	------------------	-----------

### Purpose

- This aide-memoire provides you with a biography and suggested topics for your meeting with the host of the Ninth Food Ministers' Meeting (FMM09) – Hon Christopher 'Chris' Picton, South Australian Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

### Biography

- A biography for Minister Picton is provided at **Appendix One**. All biographical information has been obtained from either the Ministers' own personal website, and the South Australia Government's website.

### Suggested topics for discussion

- Suggested topics and talking points that you may wish to use for your meeting with Minister Picton are provided in the table below.
- These topics include some of the FMM09 agenda items for which there is understood to be potential alignment between New Zealand and South Australian positions at the officials-level.

Topic	Possible talking points
Thank you for hosting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thank you for hosting the upcoming Food Ministers' Meeting.</li> <li>I understand from my officials, who were involved in organising the last face-to-face meeting in New Zealand, that this can be a large undertaking.</li> <li>It is great to be able to discuss substantive items in-person.</li> </ul>
Representing New Zealand in the Joint Food System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As you are no doubt aware, we have a coalition Government in New Zealand.</li> <li>In terms of representing New Zealand in the Joint Food System, this means I have a responsibility to ensure that my coalition partners are informed, where necessary, of substantive decision points and that our Government's priorities are reflected in my positions.</li> </ul>

Topic	Possible talking points
Priority Three (P3) Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are your thoughts on the P3 project and priority areas for the Joint Food System?</li> <li>• I would be keen to see this project brought to a timely finish. It has been progressing since 2019 and it would be great to see outcomes realised.</li> <li>• This would also free up resource in the System for other projects of priority.</li> <li>• I understand that no plan/programme of work has been drawn up. I see this as the next priority. We should be able to use the agreed Strategic Objectives to develop a clear direction of work for the next few years.</li> </ul>
Proposal P1049 – Carbohydrate and Sugar Claims on Alcoholic beverages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSANZ has completed consumer research as requested by Food Ministers.</li> <li>• I am now keen to see this proposal finalised and the decision point for Food Ministers to remain in sync with Proposal P1059 (energy labelling on alcohol).</li> </ul>
FSANZ Nutrition Information Panel (NIP) Proposal & P1058	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I understand FSANZ is suggesting that we as Food Ministers agree to them commencing a holistic review of the NIP.</li> <li>• Given the NIP is on most products, this could have wide implications for industry. I am keen to see policy work to define the scope and problem(s) with the current NIP before we agree to this.</li> <li>• The work to incorporate added sugars in the NIP has clearly been difficult. Given the outcomes of FSANZ's study shows consumers are confused by this, I think the proposal should be closed.</li> </ul>

**Minister / Minister's Office**

Seen / Referred

/ / 2024

## Appendix One: Biography

---

**Hon Christopher ‘Chris’ Picton, South Australian Minister for Health and Wellbeing.  
Lead Minister to the Food Ministers’ Meeting for South Australia.  
Member of the Labor Party.**



Minister Picton is the South Australian Minister for Health and Wellbeing and the member for Kaurana in the southern suburbs of Adelaide. Minister Picton has previously served as Minister for Police, Correctional Services, Emergency Services, and Road Safety.

Before his election to Parliament, Minister Picton served as Senior Adviser and Chief of Staff to former state and federal Health Ministers, and as an Associate Director at Deloitte Access Economics. His areas of policy work included tobacco plain packaging and national public hospital funding reforms.

Minister Picton is passionate about improving health care outcomes for all South Australians. He was educated at public schools in Adelaide and graduated from Flinders University with a Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice and a Bachelor of Arts.

Minister Picton is a husband, and a dad of three young kids. When he has free time, he enjoys walking his dog on the beach, volunteer surf life saving and supporting the Adelaide Crows (Australian Football League).