

## **Health professionals' and primary producers' understanding of sustainable food production systems for healthy eating**

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**Background** – “Eating for Sustainability” remains poorly understood by both public health professionals and primary producers in spite of an emerging recognition in linking the themes of sustainability with nutrition, eating habits, and food production (1-2).

**Objectives** – To explore public health professionals' and primary producers' understanding with respect to the meaning, viability, and implications of various models of sustainable food production for healthy eating.

**Design** – An electronic survey was sent to approximately 650 Australian public health and nutrition professionals and primary producers. The broad issue of eating for sustainability, sustainability of beef cattle production systems in Australia as a case study; and the relationship between Australian Dietary Guidelines and sustainable agriculture were explored.

**Results** – The overall response rate was 14%, this was mainly due to the difficulty and the novelty of the topic. As expected, a majority (62%) of respondents were unaware or unsure of the concept of “Eating for Sustainability”.

**Conclusions** – Australian primary producers and public health professionals need to have adequate communication to enhance future sustainable food production systems.

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