

Utilising technology in the co-design and evaluation of cultural and contextually relevant healthy food retail interventions.

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## **Utilising technology in the co-design and evaluation of cultural and contextually relevant healthy food retail interventions.**

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### **Background**

Poor diet is a key determinant of chronic disease and premature death internationally and in Australia. Food retail environments influence food purchases and ultimately dietary patterns. Harnessing the power of local community members and decision makers to co-design context and culturally relevant solutions is central to sustainable improvements to the food environment in retail stores.

### **Objectives**

To utilize technological advances to streamline the co-design of effective and sustainable strategies to improve the food environment in retail stores.

### **Method**

We have mapped technological innovations (Store Scout) that streamline the auditing of the food environment from a marketing, cost and affordability perspective. We then create a visual depiction of the food environment utilising Systems Thinking In Community Knowledge Exchange (STICKE) software that facilitates a community understanding of the complexity of the food environment. This enables community co-design of locally relevant, prioritised, acceptable and feasible strategies. Thirdly, FoodFox, translates sales data to food and nutrient reference values for efficient evaluation.

### **Results**

We have developed a staged approach based on a continuous quality improvement process to combine these three innovative technologies into one streamlined process: CO-Design and Evaluation with Communities of food Environments To Advance Health (CODE-CHEETAH). This four-staged process involves: i) evidence collection; ii & iii) co-design group engagement and evidence-informed action; iv) momentum. This paper describes this process, outlines each of the tools and presents a case-study to demonstrate the potential of CODE-CHEETAH to accelerate healthy food retail environments.

### **Conclusions**

CODE-CHEETAH represents a collective, adaptive and equitable solution to enhancing health-enabling food environments.