



MEDIA RELEASE

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Junk food advertising ban aims to protect school kids

Marion Council joined the fight to protect children's waist lines last night by taking the first step towards banning junk food advertising on bus shelters near schools.

The move aims to remove junk food advertising from 28 bus shelters within 200-metres of schools and kindergartens in the City of Marion.

Council will also look at ways of promoting healthy lifestyles by encouraging bus shelter advertising that promotes walking and cycling.

Council voted to advise the advertising companies it will consider restricting junk food advertising on bus shelters within 200-metres of schools and kindergartens at the General Council meeting of November 24.

Additionally, Council will seek cooperation from agencies by asking them to change the placement of junk food advertising to minimise its impact on schools.

Mayor Kris Hanna said he was proud Council was standing up for children's health.

"Hundreds of children are exposed to junk food advertising waiting at bus shelters each day, so I'm proud Council is looking to protect them from the health risks associated with an unhealthy diet," Mr Hanna said.

"Our proposed ban is a modern example of how local government plays an important role in protecting our community by making it a healthier place to live.

"This is a battle our community cannot afford to lose."

There are 374 bus stops with advertising shelters in the City of Marion, 28 of which are within 200-metres of schools or kindergartens.

Space on bus shelters is sold by contracted advertising agencies.

An estimated 26 per cent of children nationally are either overweight or obese, according to a snapshot of *Australia's Health 2014* by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The annual cost of obesity to the community is estimated at \$58 billion in terms of health care and lost productivity.

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