



## Queensland Hospital and Health Services Performance in 2024

The places where we make decisions about food purchases – the options available, how they are presented and promoted and the cost – all have an influence on our choices. Health and Wellbeing Queensland's (HWQld) A Better Choice strategy is designed to change the food environment to make it easier for Queenslanders to access healthy food and drink options outside the home.

The A Better Choice - Food and Drink Supply Strategy for Queensland Healthcare Facilities (A Better Choice) guides Hospitals and Health Services (HHSs) to create healthy food environments that promote healthier food and drinks to staff and visitors. It is based on the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating, and uses a traffic light system to classify products in three categories according to their nutritional value:



Performance targets are set for the availability of food and drinks from each of these categories in food retail outlets and vending machines. These targets can be viewed on subsequent pages.

A Health Service Directive: Healthier food and drinks in healthcare facilities (the Directive) directs HHSs to ensure that healthy food and drinks are sold, provided, promoted and advertised at healthcare facilities, through implementation of A Better Choice. The Directive establishes HHSs as places where staff and visitors are supported to make choices that promote health and wellbeing.

HWQld supports HHSs to implement A Better Choice, monitors performance against the targets and reports on this performance as a requirement of the Directive. This includes providing visibility of HHS level compliance to the Queensland public for the purpose of promoting transparency, tracking progress, and supporting adoption of A Better Choice.

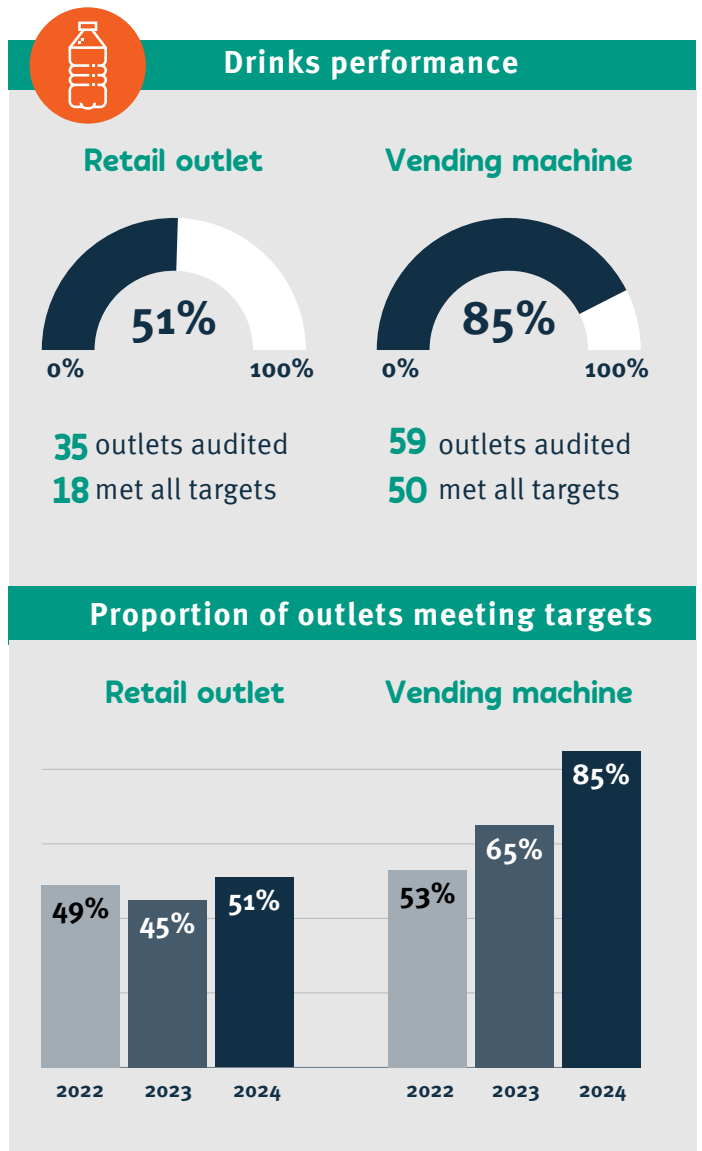
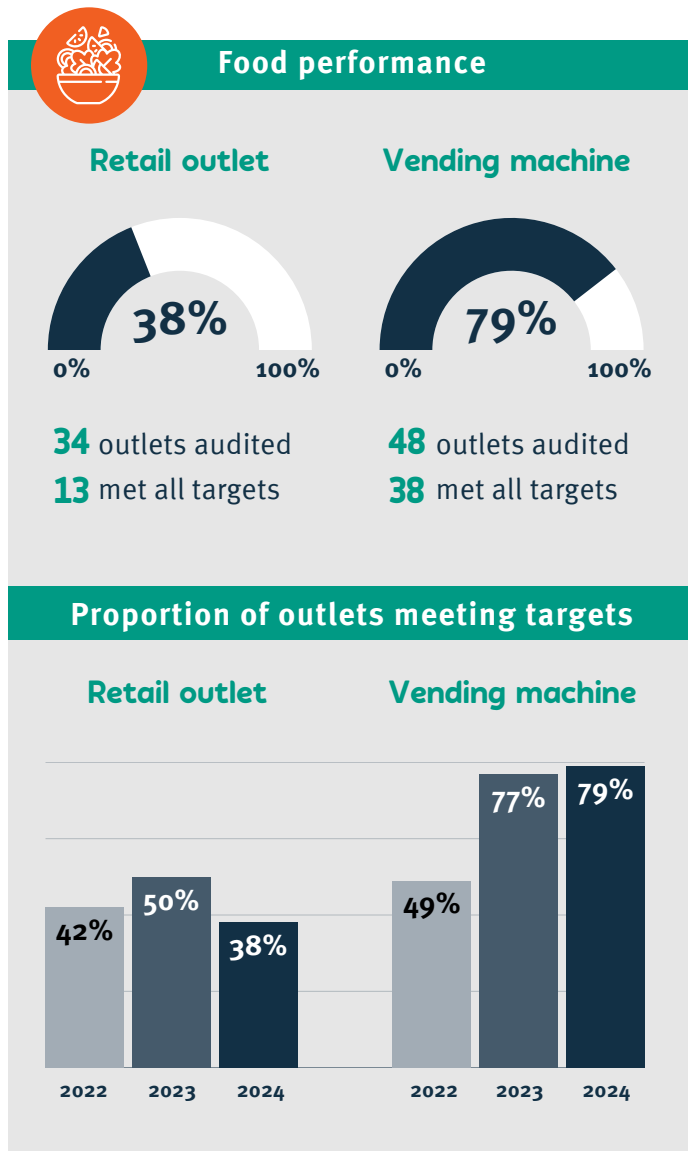
Retail outlets and vending machines in healthcare facilities meet the requirements of the Directive when they achieve the performance targets for food and drinks in all three categories (Green, Amber and Red).

This report provides data on the 2024 performance of 17 Queensland Hospital and Health Services (Including Mater Health) against the Directive. Data was reported by HHSs between December 2024 and January 2025.

## Results

### Retail outlets and vending machines

The proportion of retail outlets and vending machines meeting all targets from the three categories (Green, Amber, Red) that were audited in 2024 is shown below. Performance ranged from 38% to 85% depending on the nature of the outlet and across food and drinks. The three-year trend is also shown, indicating that vending machine performance has increased for both food and drinks and performance in retail outlets has remained stable. These results inform where future implementation efforts are needed.



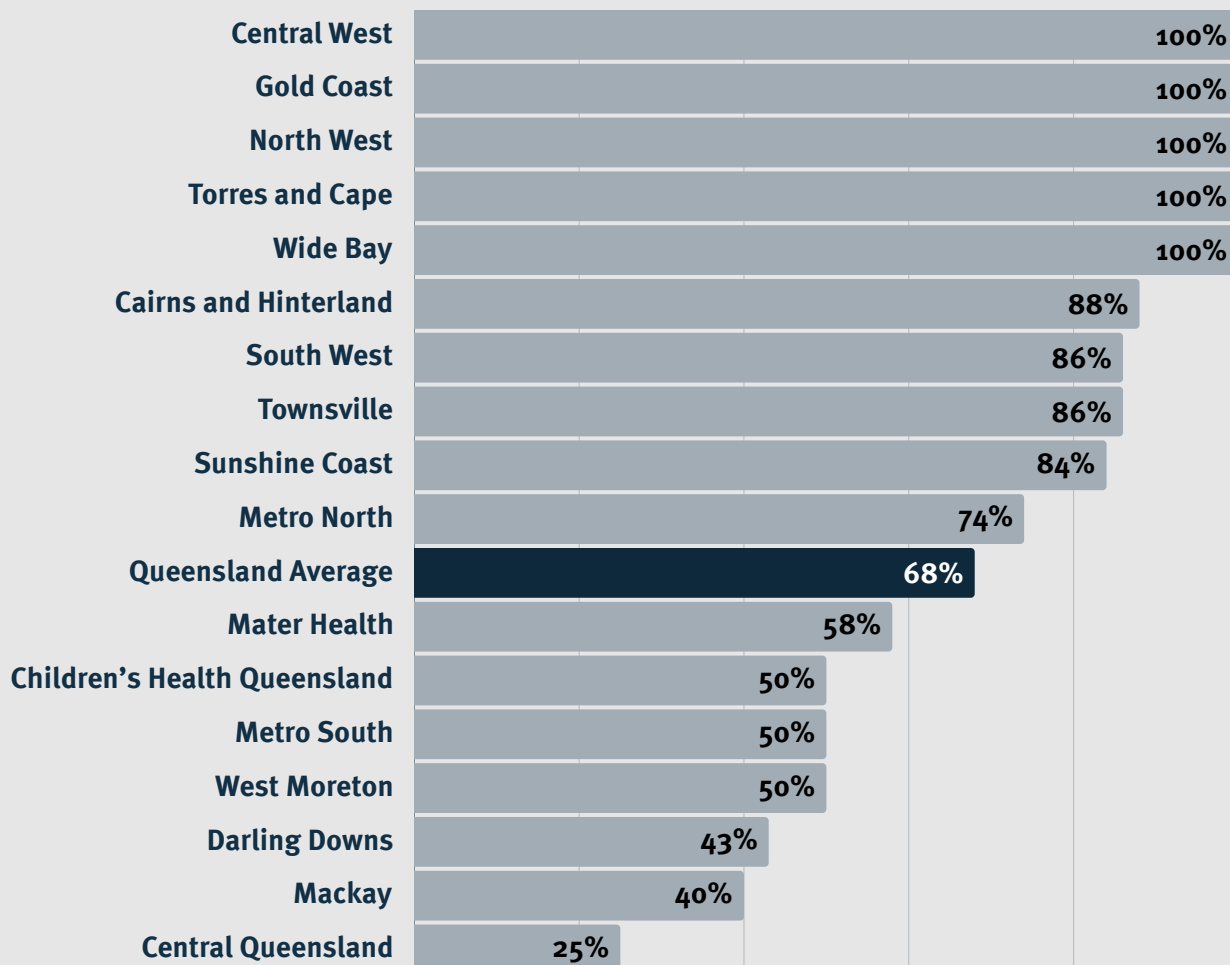


## Results

### HHS level performance

On average across Queensland HHSs, 68% of outlets (retail and vending machines) met all food and drink targets, an increase of **9%** from 2023. Five HHSs met all food and drink targets, achieving full performance and 12 HHSs made improvements against the targets for either food or drinks.

#### Performance comparison (%) of all Hospital and Health Services

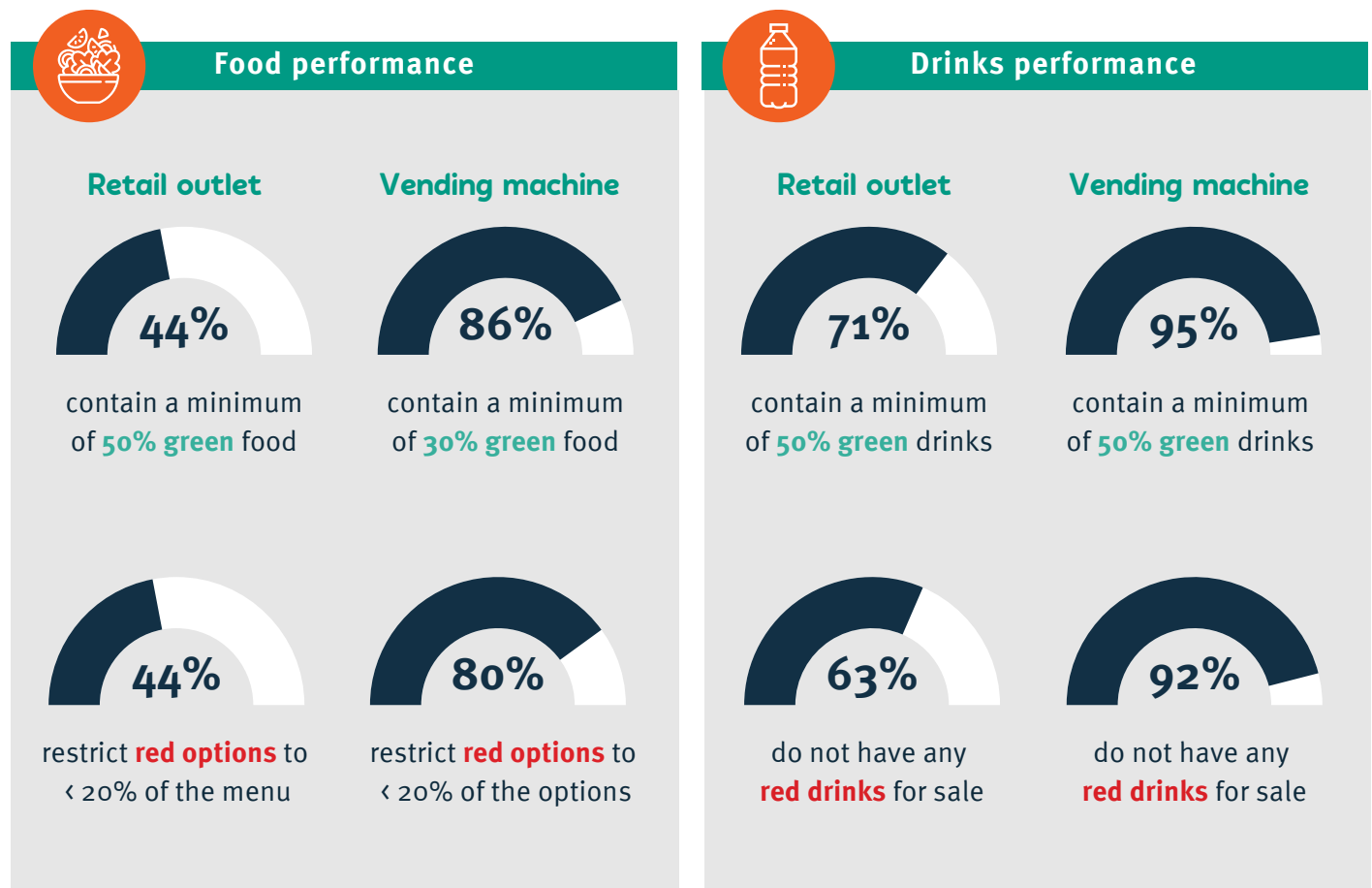




## Results

### Selected targets

The average HHS performance is a useful measure of the proportion of retail outlets and vending machines that meet all the relevant targets in A Better Choice (see the Performance targets section below). However, looking at performance against specific food and drink targets in retail outlets and vending machines is another way to report on progress towards meeting the requirements of the Directive, as shown below.



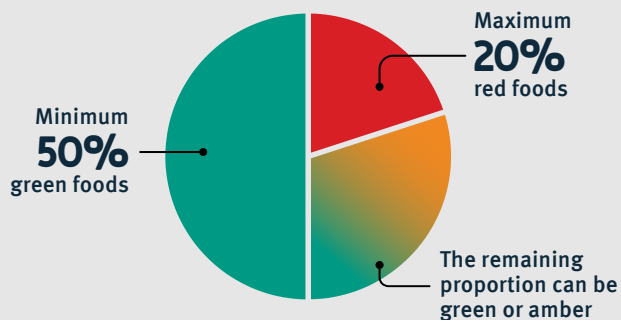


## Performance targets

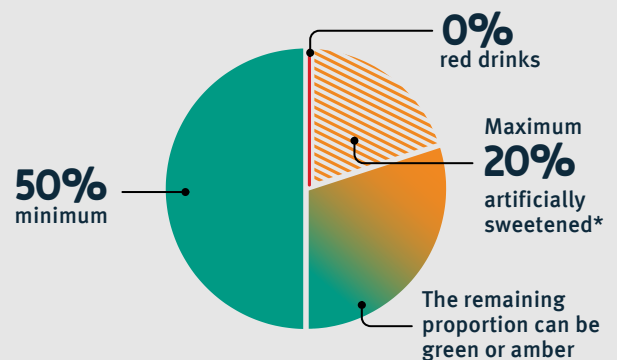
A Better Choice performance targets are shown in the figures below. More information about how food and drinks are categorised to assess performance is available in the [A Better Choice - Food and Drink Supply Strategy for Queensland Healthcare Facilities](#).

### Retail outlets

#### Food



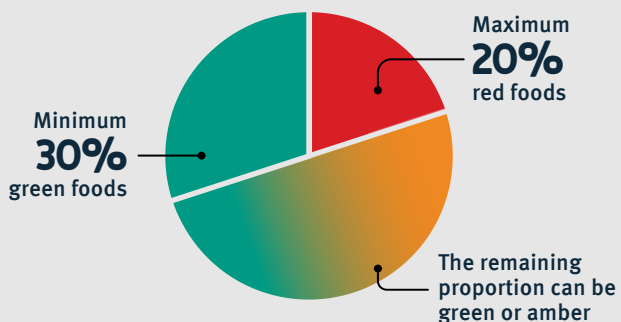
#### Drinks



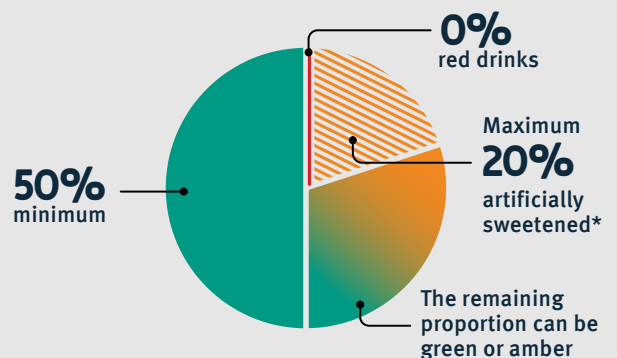
\* Excluding artificially or naturally sweetened milk drinks

### Vending machines

#### Food



#### Drinks



\* Excluding artificially or naturally sweetened milk drinks

For enquires related to this report, email [abetterchoice@hw.qld.gov.au](mailto:abetterchoice@hw.qld.gov.au). More information about Health and Wellbeing Queensland's suite of A Better Choice initiatives can be viewed at [hw.qld.gov.au/a-better-choice](http://hw.qld.gov.au/a-better-choice).