

**2024 Pre-Budget Document Proposals by
The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry on:**

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

1. **Educate and incentivise the use of indigenous or endemic plants and trees that are resistant to Mediterranean climate** by placing a higher tax on non-indigenous, decorative species that require heavy irrigation, whilst offering a lower tax on indigenous vegetation that also contributes towards carbon sequestration, improved air quality and other ecosystem services.
2. Ban products with high sugar and salt content and junk food, from school canteens, sports nurseries and kiosks in children's playgrounds and instead promote **fruit and salad bars where children can get served into their own reusable containers.**
3. More physical education opportunities should be included as part of the educational curriculum, with children leaving school having mastered basics such as swimming, riding a bike and running properly. The **FunFit5** initiative was a good start but the childhood obesity scenario in Malta calls for more action. **All public colleges at Year 3 onwards should offer mandatory, daily physical activity of at least an hour, involving different disciplines.**
4. Some liberal arts programmes at universities abroad (such as the US) require sports credits as essential parts of the curriculum. A similar system can be introduced at **tertiary level in Malta, as a follow up on sports education during compulsory schooling.**

