



**FOOD** STANDARDS  
Australia New Zealand  
Te Mana Kounga Kai – Ahitereiria me Aotearoa

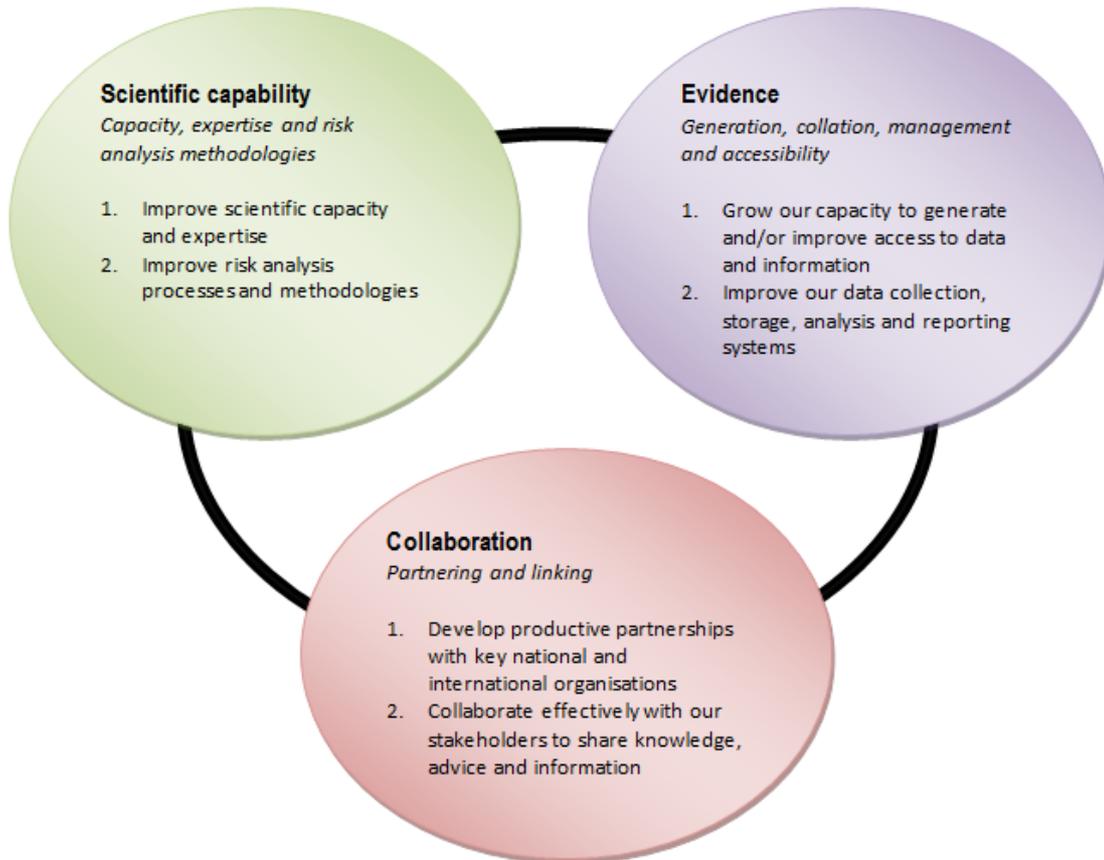
Food Standards Australia  
New Zealand  
Science Strategy  
Implementation Plan  
2016–17

**12 MONTH FORECAST OF ACTIVITIES**

## Overview of FSANZ Science Strategy 2016-2020

### AIM

Developing and enhancing our scientific capabilities, tools and partnerships to meet our current and future needs



## Strategic Area 1: Scientific capability

Strategic Aim 1: Improve scientific capacity and expertise		
Component	Activity	Timeframe and primary responsibility
Recruit adequate in-house capacity and expertise in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data science</li> <li>- Regulatory economics, behavioural and consumer sciences</li> <li>- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses</li> <li>- Food contact materials and new technologies.</li> </ul>	Identify potential roles for external consultant(s) and procure suitable expertise.	Ongoing
	Undertake an assessment of the expertise and skillset of FSANZ staff, including an in-house survey to inform baseline assessment for the work relating to the performance measure for this strategic aim.	Late 2016
Support professional development in above key fields to improve technical and non-technical capabilities.	Attend relevant conferences, workshops, events. Some key activities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSANZ 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary suite of events</li> <li>• Nutrition Society of Australia workshops</li> <li>• Australian Toxicology symposium in Canberra</li> <li>• Australian Health Economics Society Conference</li> <li>• International Comparative Policy Analysis Forum (Wellington)</li> <li>• Oceania foods conference</li> </ul>	August 2016 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2016-17 July 2016 September 2016 August 2016 July 2016
	Provide in-house training and work experiences including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Epidemiology and statistical analysis, to increase staff expertise in the relevant application of these methods in their areas, including systematic reviews</li> <li>• Use of Harvest for DEAs.</li> <li>• Dietary methods, dietary modelling and use of health based guidance values such as Nutrient Reference Values.</li> <li>• Regular in-house seminars as part of the FSANZ Seminars Series program, conducted by both external presenters and FSANZ staff.</li> </ul>	Late 2016 2016-17 Late 2016 Ongoing

## Strategic Area 1: Scientific capability

Strategic Aim 1: Improve scientific capacity and expertise		
Component	Activity	Timeframe and primary responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal staff secondments between sections, as appropriate.</li> </ul>	December 2016
	Provide training relating to the implementation of the Data Management Strategy. Anticipated activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SharePoint/EDRMS training for data owners, data custodian and data steward on Data Registry requirements.</li> </ul>	Ongoing 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2016-17
	Update and publish DEA methodologies on FSANZ website.  Publish NCI method for 2-day adjusted food and nutrient intakes in relevant peer-reviewed scientific journals.	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2016-17
	Participate in interagency professional development activities in regulatory science through the Regulatory Science Network (RSN).	Ongoing
Ensure internal and external peer reviews of FSANZ's scientific outputs, systems and practices.	Seek formal peer review of key scientific risk assessments, reports and other outputs. Anticipated reviews include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work in relation to health claims by the Health Claims scientific Advisory Group.</li> <li>Work in relation to nutrition assessment by the Ad Hoc Scientific Group</li> <li>Finalise activities in re to the 2011 expert peer-review of our risk assessment processes including recommendations for any future work.</li> </ul>	Ongoing  December 2016

## Strategic Area 1: Scientific capability

Strategic Aim 2: Improve risk analysis processes and methodologies		
Component	Activity	Timeframe and primary responsibility
Develop and implement a graduated approach to risk analysis to ensure that application of FSANZ's risk analysis resources are proportional to the risks being managed.	Implement the recommendations identified during the 2015-16 period, for a graduated risk analysis approach for the agency.	Ongoing
Develop and refine risk analysis tools.	As part of Harvest Phase 4, finalise and implement Silo (the ANDB replacement) for FSANZ food composition data, which supports DEA capabilities.	December 2016
	Improve tools to support regulatory economic analysis – Government Cost Model, Cost of Illness Model, Business Compliance Cost Calculator, Label Cost Model, Central Cost Benefit Analysis Model.	Ongoing
	Explore new methodologies for the collection of data on consumer behaviour and outcomes, e.g. discrete choice experiments and expert elicitation.	Ongoing
	Apply statistical methodology to improve meta-analysis of data in studies identified by systematic reviews, when relevant. Anticipated activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued in-house training and regular round table discussions.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Increase use of a variety of domains of evidence related to food beyond those traditionally based in the natural sciences (e.g. the behavioural and consumer sciences), to help inform risk management decisions.	Complete and publish the report on the 'Consumer Label Use' survey that collected data on consumers' knowledge, awareness and behaviours relating to food labelling.	Report completed 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2016-17.  Report published 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2016-17
	Complete P1028 InFormD consumer research. The research used focus groups and eye-tracking methods.	Final report due 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2016-17
	Undertake follow up on P1028 consumer research on infant formula.	To be completed 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2016-17

## Strategic Area 2: Evidence

Strategic Aim 1: Grow our capacity to generate and/or improve access to data and information		
Component	Activity	Timeframe and primary responsibility
Identify, access and validate external data sources and incorporating validated data to the FSANZ evidence base.	Continue to use and document a systematic approach to the review of the literature and critically appraise scientific evidence in substantiating food/health relationships. This documented systematic review process is applicable to other areas in FSANZ.	Ongoing
	Work with the food industry to obtain nutrient data for incorporation into FSANZ food composition databases, in a format which meets FSANZ's requirements for data and metadata quality.	Ongoing call for data
	Investigate and assess various potential data sources to inform a review of metal contaminants including mercury, and develop a standardised, on-line format for data submission.	June 2017
Identify key priority areas for the generation of surveillance data, in collaboration with others, where possible.	Work collaboratively with other agencies to identify priority areas for generating surveillance data, in particular, with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NZ MPI, under the NZ MPI Food Safety Operational Research Programme</li> <li>Jurisdictions, as part of the ISFR SMWG Co-ordinated Food Survey Plan (CFSP)</li> <li>International Food Chemical Safety Liaison Group (IFCSLG), as part of the FSANZ emerging issues protocol.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
	FSANZ contracted Griffith University to undertake research into the caffeine content of sports foods, to inform a review of Standard 2.9.4, and also to build the evidence base to support the sports food monitoring compliance strategies of the states and territories.	December 2016
Strengthen a microbiological evidence base for use in microbiological risk assessments.	The FSANZ Microbiological Evidence Base Plan 2015–2019 identifies a range of activities to be undertaken to support the development of a robust and contemporary microbiological evidence base. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working collaboratively with existing mechanisms such as ISFR SMWG:</li> </ul>	Ongoing

## Strategic Area 2: Evidence

Strategic Aim 1: Grow our capacity to generate and/or improve access to data and information		
Component	Activity	Timeframe and primary responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- develop guidelines and principles for microbiological data for incorporation into the FSANZ Data Management Strategy</li> <li>- Continue to establish a framework for more systematic microbiological data generation, with preliminary minimum metadata and data elements requirements to be presented at planning workshop</li> <li>• Investigate the tools for attributing risk and identifying and prioritising food/hazard pairs for imported foods.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>December 2016</p> <p>Will recommence second quarter 2016-17</p>
Strategic Aim 2: Improve our data collection, storage, analysis and reporting systems		
Component	Activity	Timeframe and primary responsibility
Finalise and implement a data management strategy for the agency	<p>Finalise and implement the first stage of the Data Management Strategy 2016-2020. Anticipated activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalisation of Data Management Strategy for 2016-20.</li> <li>• Implementation Plan for 2016-17.</li> <li>• Assignment of role to Data Owners, Data Steward, Data Custodians, Data administrators.</li> <li>• Training in the use of data registry systems.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Produce a centralised and secure data repository	<p>Continue work activities relating to providing a central data management and retrieval system that can be scaled up, is flexible and allows for easy and convenient retrieval of data that are available in a format that is modifiable and searchable. Anticipated activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of data audit and data cataloguing system.</li> <li>• Creation of a Data Registry system with mandatory requirements and consequent registration of key data sets.</li> <li>• Criteria established for storage options for data sets.</li> <li>• Dataflows for data access and data publication developed.</li> </ul>	Ongoing

## Strategic Area 2: Evidence

Strategic Aim 2: Improve our data collection, storage, analysis and reporting systems		
Component	Activity	Timeframe and primary responsibility
Make data holdings more publicly accessible (release more data into the public domain).	Publish a new edition of the NUTTAB reference database to include all analytical data generated since its last release in 2011.	December 2016
	Publish summary raw commodity consumption data for 2011-12 NNPAS on the FSANZ website including a guide for use.	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2016-17
	Develop a plan for the publication of other similar data sets to support FSANZ's emerging role as an Information hub.	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2016-17
	Develop a summary of social and economic research reports for dissemination to internal and external stakeholders.	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2016-17

## Strategic Area 3: Collaboration

Strategic Aim 1: Develop productive partnerships with key national and international organisations		
Component	- Activity	Timeframe
Mapping and network analysis.	Continued analysis of key identified stakeholders in relation to work for measuring performance for this strategic aim. Develop and/or further enhance linkages and identify gaps in our existing networks that we should make efforts to resolve.	Ongoing
Leverage expertise, information and resources on food regulatory issues from key national and international organisations.	<p>GM food safety assessment sharing conducted by FSANZ and Health Canada:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to map out and refine an administrative process for safety assessment sharing.</li> <li>• Undertake a joint review of a complex, nutritionally modified GM food.</li> <li>• Prepare for implementation of the safety assessment sharing system, including identification of suitable products in the pipeline.</li> <li>• Continued telecommunication with regulatory counterparts in Europe, North America and NZ to inform each other of developments and information of interest to our respective areas. Specifically set up for Health Claims.</li> </ul>	<p>December 2016</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Underpin strategic partnerships with memoranda of understanding.	Finalise the existing MoU with Health Canada, which incorporates provisions for the mutual recognition of food safety assessments.	December 2016

Strategic Aim 2: Collaborate effectively with our stakeholders to share knowledge, advice and information		
Component	Activity	Timeframe
<p>Build collaborative relationships with key stakeholder groups including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relevant sectors of the food industry</li> <li>- Universities, research agencies and</li> </ul>	<p>Continue to collaborate with selected universities as part of the student project and placement program. Anticipated activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosting 3 students from University of Wollongong (from August 2016) FDAS.</li> </ul>	Ongoing

## Strategic Area 3: Collaboration

Strategic Aim 2: Collaborate effectively with our stakeholders to share knowledge, advice and information		
Component	Activity	Timeframe
other academic institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ANU student intern preparing methodology paper on development of a food reformulation model.</li> </ul>	Report October 2016
	<p>Under the FSANZ Microbiological Evidence Base Plan 2015-2019 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and strengthen links with expert groups researching the use of genomic sequencing and bioinformatics, including the Peter Doherty Institute, Melbourne University and, internationally, the Global Coalition on Regulatory Science Research.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The activities include a workshop on the use of whole genome sequencing in food regulation in partnership with the Doherty Institute.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Partner with ANU, NSWFA and other health/regulatory agencies to submit an NHMRC research proposal to attribute causes of campylobacteriosis in Australia                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide expert risk assessment advice relative to food safety standards and policy development within the food regulatory system.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2016-2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FSANZ is hosting a staff from the Republic of Korea, Ministry of Drug and Food Safety for 10 months.</li> </ul>	Start date to be confirmed.

## Acronyms

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ANU	Australian National University
ANDB	Australian Nutrient Data Bank
DEA	Dietary Exposure Assessment
DMG	Data Management Group
GM	Genetically modified
GRADE	Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluations
ISFR SMWG	Implementation Subcommittee for Food Regulation Surveillance and Monitoring Working Group
IT	Information Technology
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCI	National Cancer Institute
NNPAS	National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey
NUTTAB	NUTrient TABLEs
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NSWFA	New South Wales Food Authority
NZ MPI	New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries
RSN	Regulatory Science Network