



## W1109

# Consultation about beta-glucan and blood cholesterol health claims

Consultation paper August 2017

### Submission

The Food Authority recognises the importance of food:health relationships in Schedule 4-4 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) as High Level Health Claims (HLHC) may only be made using the schedule.

The Food Authority notes the systematic review undertaken by FSANZ has shown the existing relationship in Schedule 4-4 describing beta glucan and reducing blood cholesterol has not been substantiated (i.e. established by a systematic review process). W 1109 describes that a food:health relationship between whole grain oats or oat bran (and not barley) and reduced blood cholesterol and low density lipoproteins cholesterol concentrations is substantiated.

It would appear based on the issues raised in W 1109 that FSANZ should consider raising a proposal to amend Schedule 4-4 of the Code to provide for the listed food:health relationship reflecting the substantiated relationship. This would appear to require activation of s 74 of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* (the Act).

The Food Authority provides this suggestion given that s 18 of *the Act* provides that FSANZ in developing or reviewing Standards must have regard to the best available scientific evidence concerning the matter regulated by the Standard.

The Food Authority further seeks advice from FSANZ on the food:health relationship for the making of general level health claims (GLHC) concerning beta glucan referenced in Schedule 4-5 of the Code. Substantiation of the food:health relationship for the GLHC concerning beta glucan was not included in W 1109.

It may be prudent to investigate the beta glucan GLHC food:health relationship before action is taken on the HLHC relationship as amendment to Schedule 4-4 and 4-5 of the Code may need to be considered.

### ENDS

The views expressed in this submission may or may not accord with those of other NSW Government agencies. The NSW Food Authority has a policy which encourages the full range of NSW agency views to be submitted during the standards development stages before final assessment. Other relevant NSW Government agencies are aware of and agree with this policy.

