

# 2026 FSANZ Stakeholder Forum



Wednesday, 17 June 2026 | 9am - 3pm

Strong foundations, future ready: Celebrating 30 years of joint food systems

\*Please note that these times are in AEST. If you are joining from another location, kindly adjust the timings accordingly.

## EVENT PROGRAM

<b>Networking</b> 8.00am-9.00am	<b>Pre-Event</b>	Registration and networking for in-person attendees
<b>Opening</b> 9.00am-9.45am	<b>Opening Remarks:</b> Reflecting on 30 Years of FSANZ	<b>Opening Address</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Hon. Rebecca White MP</li> <li>The Hon. Andrew Hoggard</li> </ul> <b>Reflections &amp; Scene Setting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robyn Kruk AO</li> </ul>
<b>Session 1</b> 9.45am-10.30am	<b>Looking Back to Move Forward</b>	<b>Keynote Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sophie Dwyer PSM</li> <li>Professor Peter Prentis</li> </ul>
<b>Break</b> 10.30am-11.00am	<b>Morning Tea</b>	Catering provided for in-person attendees
<b>Session 2</b> 11.00am-11.45am	<b>Panel 1:</b> Public Health Futures	<b>Expert Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Ben Mudaliar</li> <li>Dr Katherine Kent</li> <li>Associate Professor Alexandra Jones</li> </ul>
<b>Session 3</b> 11.45am-12.30pm	<b>Consumer Insights:</b> Spotlight Discussion	<b>Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James Goth</li> <li>Sue Chetwin</li> <li>Madeline Richardson</li> </ul>
<b>Break</b> 12.30am-1.15pm	<b>Lunch</b>	Catering provided for in-person attendees
<b>Session 4</b> 1.15pm- 2.00pm	<b>Panel 2:</b> Industry Innovation and Regulatory Alignment	<b>Expert Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salvo Vitelli</li> <li>Raewyn Bleakley</li> <li>Kim Tonnet</li> <li>Dr Alan Barclay</li> </ul>

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<b>Session 5</b> 2.00pm-2.45pm	<b>Looking to the Future</b>	<b>Presentation on FSANZ 2030 Roadmap:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr Sandra Cuthbert</li></ul> <b>Government Perspectives on the future of the Food System:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr Ben Mudaliar</li><li>• Fiona Duncan</li></ul>
<b>Closing</b> 2.45pm-3.00pm	<b>Closing Reflections</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr Sandra Cuthbert</li></ul>
<b>Networking</b> 3:00pm-5:00pm	<b>Post-Event</b>	Networking and afternoon tea for in-person attendees

CELEBRATING **30** YEARS OF THE  
JOINT FOOD SYSTEM



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

EVENT PROGRAM

# Speaker Highlights



## The Hon. Rebecca White MP

Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care  
Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health  
Assistant Minister for Women

Rebecca grew up on a farm and maintains a love of the land and animals. She lives with her young family on a small acreage at Richmond in Tasmania. Rebecca is passionate about ensuring there is equality of opportunity for all Australians regardless of where they live, their background or circumstances.

First elected to the Tasmanian Parliament in 2010 for the seat of Lyons, Rebecca served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier in the Labor government and was later appointed Minister for Human Services. She was the Leader of the Tasmanian Labor Party from 2017 to 2024.

Rebecca was elected to Federal Parliament in 2025 and appointed Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Indigenous Health and Women.

Rebecca graduated from the University of Tasmania in 2004 with a combined Commerce and Arts degree with majors in international business management and marketing, journalism and political science. She is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



## The Hon. Andrew Hoggard

Minister for Biosecurity and Food Safety  
Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare, Skills) and for the Environment

The Hon. Andrew Hoggard is the Minister for Biosecurity and Food Safety and the Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare, Skills) and for the Environment.

Qualified in Applied Economics, Andrew is a lifelong dairy farmer who worked his way to the role of President of Federated Farmers of New Zealand. He held this role until 2023 and later the same year was elected to Parliament as an ACT Party MP.

# Speaker Highlights



## **Sophie Dwyer PSM**

Adjunct Professor at University of Queensland  
Public/Environmental Health Leader

Sophie Dwyer has had a diverse career in public, environment and occupational health. She spent most of her career working in Queensland Health including responsibility for a range of public health environment and regulatory programs. These programs addressed the health impacts of environmental risks and included food safety, drugs and poisons regulation, radiation safety, water quality, chemicals and pollution events and climate change. She was awarded a Public Service Medal for her work in environmental and public health, and an Honorary Fellowship of Environmental Health Australia.

Though recently retired, Sophie maintains an active connection with public and environmental health through her role as convenor of the PHAA Ecology and Environment SIG and chair of the NHMRC Dietary Guidelines Sustainability Working Group. She holds an adjunct professor role at the University of Queensland.



## **Professor Peter Prentis**

Director- Centre for Agriculture and the Bioeconomy at  
Queensland University of Technology

Professor Peter Prentis is a leading academic at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), serving as a Professor and Centre Director in Agriculture and the Bioeconomy. His work focuses on advancing innovative, sustainable solutions across agriculture and food systems, with particular expertise in plant science, crop improvement and bio-based production systems. Through an interdisciplinary approach, Professor Prentis integrates genomics, biotechnology and data-driven research to enhance agricultural productivity, resilience and sustainability. He plays a key leadership role in driving collaborative research partnerships with industry, government and international organisations, aiming to address major global challenges such as food security, climate adaptation and the transition to a circular bioeconomy.



## **Ben Mudaliar**

Assistant Secretary, Alcohol, Other Drugs and Food Branch  
at Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Ben Mudaliar has 19 years experience in the Australian Government. He currently heads the Alcohol, Other Drugs and Food Branch in the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA). In previous roles, he has been responsible for law, justice and community safety policy (Attorney-General's Department; the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C)), environment policy (National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)), place-based engagement in Arnhem Land and Groote Eylandt (PM&C; NIAA), and First Nations health (DoHDA).

# Speaker Highlights



## Dr Katherine Kent

Senior Lecturer Nutrition and Dietetics at University of Wollongong

Dr Katherine Kent is a public health nutrition researcher and Senior Lecturer at the University of Wollongong. Her work focuses on food insecurity and food systems, with a strong emphasis on generating evidence to inform food policy and regulation. Dr Kent leads a rapidly growing research program focused on infant and child feeding practices and the structural determinants shaping nutrition behaviours, underpinned by strong consumer engagement.



## Associate Professor Alexandra Jones

Program Lead, Food Governance at The George Institute for Global Health (UNSW)

Alexandra Jones is a public health lawyer and researcher specialising in regulatory approaches to healthier and more sustainable diets. Her work supports governments in Australia and internationally to design and implement effective food regulation, with a focus on food labelling, composition, pricing and marketing. She works closely with policymakers, international agencies and public health organisations to translate evidence into action and has contributed to significant reforms in nutrition labelling systems in Australia and globally.

The George Institute for Global Health is an independent medical research institute, affiliated with the University of New South Wales (UNSW).



## James Goth

Chief Executive Officer at OzHarvest

James is the CEO of OzHarvest, joining in 2024 from ASX-listed Seven Group Holdings (SGH) where he was Chief Operating Officer. Prior to SGH, James was Head of Strategy and Corporate Development at Woolworths Group, Partner at the Boston Consulting Group and has served on the Board of the international NGO ActionAid Australia and the data company Quantum.

OzHarvest is Australia's leading food rescue organisation with a driving purpose to 'Nourish our Country' and a mission to stop food waste, feed people in need and protect our planet by championing the value of food and driving change at all levels of society. Best known for their iconic yellow food rescue vans which save over 400 tonnes of food every week from over 2,600 food donors and deliver it direct to more than 1,500 charities that feed people in need, OzHarvest also runs three national education programs, and aims to halve Australia's food waste by 2030.

# Speaker Highlights



## Sue Chetwin

Chair of the Grocery Action Group

Sue (CNZM, LLB) has more than 20 years' experience working for and on behalf of consumers. She is the former CEO of Consumer NZ and recently stepped down from the FSANZ board after eight years. She has been on the Financial Markets Authority Board, Banking Ombudsman Board and chaired the Government's review into public drug buying agency Pharmac.

Sue currently chairs the Elizabeth Fletcher Foundation, the investment vehicle for Share My Super which funds charities fighting to end child poverty. She is also a member of the Building Practitioners Board and chairs the Grocery Action Group.



## Madeline Richardson

Executive General Manager of Consumer Product Safety Division at the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC)

Madeline has held a wide range of positions spanning health, industrial relations, economic development, community engagement and education. Madeline is passionate about public value and delivering positive and lasting social and economic outcomes.

Currently, Madeline is Executive General Manager, Consumer Product Safety at the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. Prior to this she was head of Skills SA and Deputy Chief Executive within the South Australian Department for Education.



## Salvo Vitelli

General Manager of Agribusiness and Policy at Department of Industries

Salvo's grandparent's roots are in farming, and he has a long history working in the agriculture and natural resource management sectors. He has held roles in government, industry and private organisations. During his time in the Queensland Government, he has designed and delivered policies and programs that are focussed on sustainable production in partnership with industries and community-based organisations across a variety of areas that include agriculture and biosecurity.

In his current role, Salvo is focussed on working with others to maximise innovation and sustainability opportunities for agribusiness sector and their related value chains and services that have been created by changing domestic and international market demands.

# Speaker Highlights



## **Raewyn Bleakley**

Chief Executive Officer of New Zealand Food and Grocery Council (NZFGC)

Chief Executive of New Zealand Food & Grocery Council, Raewyn Bleakley has over two decades of leadership experience spanning government and industry associations in senior roles. Raewyn studied human nutrition, food science, and food service management at the University of Otago and holds a Post Graduate Diploma of Science.

New Zealand Food & Grocery Council is the industry association that represents manufacturers, suppliers, and supporters behind New Zealand's food, beverage, and grocery brands.



## **Dr Alan Barclay**

Health & Nutrition Consultant to the Australian Retail Council (ARC)

Alan has a BSc in Nutrition and Food Science, a Graduate Diploma in Dietetics, a PhD in Nutritional Epidemiology and a Cert III in commercial cookery. He has worked in clinical dietetics since 1993, as well as working in public health at Diabetes Australia-NSW and the Glycemic Index (GI) Foundation, and academia via the University of Sydney. He currently acts as a consultant to the Australian Retail Council, University of Sydney, and their affiliates.

Alan specialises in conducting systematic literature reviews and meta-analyses, as well as in new product development and food standards (domestic and international), and has presented his research around the globe. Alan contributes to and edits the University of Sydney's e-newsletter GI News, and has authored/co-authored over 40 journal articles and 5 books, mainly on the topics of carbohydrates and diabetes.



## **Kim Tonnet**

Regulatory Scientist at Kim Tonnet Consulting and Cellular Agriculture Australia

Kim is a Regulatory Scientist with over 30 years of experience in food manufacturing; working across several product categories in both consumer and foodservice markets. She has held roles in Quality Assurance, New Product Development, Product Stewardship, Regulatory Science and Consumer Marketing in large multinationals such as Unilever, Mars, Coca-Cola South Pacific and Nestlé and small/medium start-up enterprises such as the Lupin Protein Bread Company and All G (Foods).

Kim's special interests include international markets (import/export), allergen management, the food-medicine interface and future foods, particularly complementary proteins. She is a keen advocate for best practice regulation and currently working with Cellular Agriculture Australia.

# FSANZ



## Robyn Kruk AO

Interim Chair of FSANZ Board

Ms Robyn Kruk AO was appointed interim Chair of the FSANZ Board from 1 March 2026 to 30 June 2026.

Robyn has extensive experience as Chief Executive, Chair or Director of national and state policy, regulatory, conservation, research and service delivery agencies including Secretary of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, NSW Health and NSW Premier and Cabinet. She has played a key role in shaping health and environmental governance internationally, serving as an International Chief Advisor to the China Council for International Cooperation in Environment and Development.

She has been appointed by Australian and State/Territory governments to lead numerous national and state reviews, including most recently national COVID 19 responses, and regulatory settings for health practitioner registration, skills and qualifications for overseas trained health professionals. Robyn has served as Chair and/or Director of a number of government statutory agencies and not-for-profits including the NSW Virtual Viral Manufacturing Facility, the Australian Eating Disorders Research and Translation Centre and Mental Health Australia.

Robyn Chaired the FSANZ Board from 2016 to 2021. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in recognition of her work in mental health reform, environmental protection and food standards.



## Dr Sandra Cuthbert

Chief Executive Officer, FSANZ

Dr Sandra Cuthbert is a senior public sector leader with expertise in science-based regulation, organisational strategy, and stakeholder engagement, having worked in central, line, and portfolio agencies including PMC, Finance, DAFF, and FSANZ. She has extensive experience working at the intersection of government, industry, and the community, ensuring regulatory frameworks are both evidence-driven and practical.

In her current role as Chief Executive Officer of Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), Dr Cuthbert leads a binational agency responsible for developing and maintaining the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. She oversees scientific risk assessments, policy development, and regulatory harmonisation to protect public health while supporting a dynamic food industry.

Sandra enjoys learning and has qualifications in veterinary medicine and surgery, law, and governance and is currently undertaking a Senior Executive Master of Business Administration.

# FSANZ



## Jo Gardner

General Manager, Corporate Services Branch, FSANZ

Jo is an experienced Senior executive with over 20 years' experience across the Commonwealth and local Governments, leading strategic reform, governance, and capability uplift. Within FSANZ, Jo is responsible for food recalls and incidents, corporate governance, oversight of the Office of General Counsel (an independent provider of internal legal advice), standards management office, finance and procurement, communication and stakeholder engagement, the Board secretariat, parliamentary liaison, human resources, operations and ICT.



## Christel Leemhuis

General Manager, Public Health Branch, FSANZ

Christel Leemhuis is the General Manager of Public Health at Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), where she leads the agency's public health agenda. A public health nutritionist with more than 20 years' experience across government and the private sector, Christel leads work on labelling and information standards, social science and economic analysis, and nutrition data and regulatory development. Her leadership is shaping major initiatives including work toward mandating the Health Star Rating system, evidence gathering to inform digital labelling into the future, and improving the composition of infant and toddler food standards.



## Dr Matthew O'Mullane

General Manager, Food Safety Branch, FSANZ

Dr Matthew O'Mullane is the General Manager of the Food Safety Branch at FSANZ and has worked across the Australian government for over 25 years, including 10 years at FSANZ. He has extensive experience in human health risk analysis and the regulation of food, chemicals, and GMOs. Matthew was a toxicological adviser to the World Health Organisation, the Australian Delegation Leader to the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods, chaired FSANZ's Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and was secretary of the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee.

Prior to joining government, Matthew was a research scientist in the university and private sectors and led innovations in disease detection and cancer drug development. He has a first-class honours degree in human virology and a PhD in cancer cell biology from the University of Wollongong.