

McGee, Lucy

From: slo@foodstandard.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 29 January 2008 3:20 PM
To: standards management
Subject: FSANZ: Applications and Submissions - Submission [SEC=INCONFIDENCE]



FSANZ: Applications and Submissions - Submission

Tuesday, 29 January, 2008

- 1. Assessment Report Number:** A576
- 2. Assessment Report Title:** Labelling of Alcoholic Beverages with a Pregnancy Health Advisory Label
- 3. Organisation Name:**
- 4. Organisation Type:** Individual
- 5. Representing:**
- 6. Street Address:** 31 Whitmore Rd Hillsborough Auckland 1041
- 7. Postal Address:** as above
- 8. Contact Person:** Patricia Duncan
- 9. Phone:** 09 6258952
- 10. Fax:**
- 11. Email Address:** pbduncan@xtra.co.nz
- 12. Submission Text:** I am the adoptive mother of a child born with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and would submit a personal plea that alcoholic beverages be labeled with a health warning directed at informing pregnant women of the risks of drinking during pregnancy. The personal cost of mental and emotional distress in raising a child with this condition is enormous and the cost to society as yet unmeasured, and probably immeasurable, when health, education and justice factors are considered. As the parent of such a boy for 15 years I have advocated abstinence from alcohol for pregnant women and have been amazed at the ignorance surrounding this issue. I believe the need for labeling of alcoholic beverages in this way is long overdue. At least it will raise awareness and assist in education around the issue of FASD and at best will remove the risk of damage to children of women who heed the warning. I would not wish on any child the pain and suffering our son has gone through all his growing up years and still suffers, and his condition was fully preventable. He will struggle throughout life in his personal relationships, in the workplace and need support which at present is only provided by his family who struggle to know how to do so. I am certain that the labeling of alcoholic beverages will raise public awareness and is worthwhile if it changes the plight of even a few unborn children