



**Submission to:**

**Urgent Proposal P1057 – Review of the Kava Standard**

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Date of Submission: 16 November 2022 by 6.00 PM EDST (3.00 PM WST)

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The Western Australian (WA) Government would like to thank Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) for the opportunity to provide comment for a second time on Urgent Proposal P1057 – Review of the Kava Standard. Attachment 1 to this response is the WA Government's previous submission, dated 23 December 2021 (attached) on this matter. Issues raised in WA's December 2021 submission on Urgent Proposal P1057, remain relevant.

WA remains concerned about the Commonwealth Government's 2-year Pilot to allow the commercial importation of kava into Australia. The work undertaken by FSANZ to include additional requirements in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) for kava is appreciated and considered necessary in assisting jurisdictions to limit the types of kava food products entering the domestic market from overseas and manage any potential impacts of kava use in WA.

WA fully supports the proposed draft variations of the Code, to

- Prescribe that kava food products must only be obtained from the Noble varieties of *Piper methysticum* named in the Codex Regional Standard for Kava; and
- Explicitly prohibit the addition of food additives and processing aids in the manufacture or processing of dried or raw kava root and kava beverages.

However, WA is concerned that further warning and advisory statements are not being pursued by FSANZ at this time. WA notes that FSANZ cites a lack of evidence available to support additional labelling requirements.

WA considers a precautionary approach is warranted in respect to the inclusion of additional public safety warnings and advisory statements as a mandatory requirement for the sale of kava food products, should the Commonwealth's Pilot for the commercial importation of kava be extended beyond the 2-year trial. In line with the WA Government's December 2021 submission on P1057, the types of warning statements that may be needed include:

- This food is kava and is not recommended for (i) children or adolescents up to 16 years of age; or (ii) pregnant or lactating women; or individuals sensitive to kava; and no more than a one-day quantity should be consumed per day.
- Do not take this product if pregnant or breastfeeding
- May harm the liver
- May cause skin rashes
- Keep out of reach of children

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on P1057.