



## P1042 Low THC Hemp Seeds as Food

August 2016

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) is the national association of the dietetic profession with over 6000 members, and branches in each state and territory. DAA is a leader in nutrition and advocates for food and nutrition for healthier people and healthier nations. DAA appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal P1042 Low THC Hemp Seeds as Food by Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

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## **DAA interest in this consultation**

DAA is the peak professional body for dietitians in Australia and responsible for the Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) program as the basis for self-regulation of the profession.

DAA advocates for a safe and nutritious food supply in which the community has confidence and which meets the nutritional needs of all Australians, including groups with special needs.

As experts in nutrition, Accredited Practising Dietitians (APDs) assist the general population and groups with special dietary needs to meet their nutritional needs. APDs also assist with the translation of food labels and nutrition content claims.

## **Recommendations**

The DAA understands this application is seeking to develop a food regulatory measure to permit the sale of food derived from the seeds of low delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol varieties of *Cannabis sativa* (low THC hemp).

The DAA supports FSANZ draft variation to the Code to permit the sale of low THC hemp seed foods, subject to maximum levels of THC, based on the following:

- Low THC hemp seed foods have been assessed as safe for human consumption at the recommended maximum levels of THC content.
- The draft variation provides a net benefit to the affected parties.
- No other measures would be more effective at achieving this outcome.

## **Discussion**

In a previous submission in April 2011 on A1039 – Low THC Hemp as a Food, the DAA supported approval of low THC hemp foods.

These were based on the following:

- Acknowledges there is concern of the potential risk that high THC varieties of *Cannabis* could enter the food supply if low THC hemp foods are approved and therefore recommends a maximum THC limit be set for foods derived from *Cannabis*.
- Supports the use of hempseed (and oil) for its nutritional merit i.e. the seed contains protein and many vitamins and minerals. The oil has a high omega 3 fatty acid content.
- Recommends that FSANZ include a page on their website to provide consumers with information about hemp foods to allay concerns regarding psychoactive properties relating to the consumption of those foods.