

Project Officer Application A1273  
Food Standards Australia New Zealand  
PO Box 10559  
The Terrace  
Wellington 6036

14 December 2023

Tēnā koe,

## **A1273 – Steviol glycosides as a food additive in Food for special medical purposes**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application. New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) has the following comments to make:

NZFS agrees with FSANZ's safety and risk assessment that concluded that no public health and safety concerns were identified in the assessment, and there was no need to amend the existing Acceptable Daily Intake for steviol glycosides established by FSANZ in 2008 (0-4 mg/kg bw for steviol glycosides, expressed as steviol equivalents). We agree that the use of steviol glycosides as an intense sweetener in Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP) is technologically justified, noting a number of intense sweeteners are already permitted for use in FSMP in the Food Standards Code.

NZFS supports the draft variation to amend Schedule 15 to permit the use of steviol glycosides in FSMP, at different maximum permitted levels for two FSMP product categories, i.e., very low energy foods produced for consumption as part of a very low energy diet, and all other FSMP (excluding product formulated for infants). We agree that establishing separate maximum permitted levels are required to manage potential risks associated with the variations in medical requirements, intended population and directions of use.

Nāku noa, nā