

SA HEALTH SUBMISSION

APPLICATION A1039 - LOW THC HEMP AS A FOOD

**Food Policy and Programs Branch, SA Health
February 2012**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to A1039 Assessment report. Please note the following comments from SA Health.

General Comments

SA Health maintains its previous position in relation to this application which is provided below for ease of reference.

SA Health considers that the reasons for Ministers rejecting the original FSANZ recommendation for the use of hemp in food (A360) in 2002 are unchanged.

SA Health agrees that many of the issues of concern such as the impact of hemp in food permissions on drug policies, enforcement and community opinion, lie outside of the scope of food regulation. However while these issues exist, the amendment of the Food Standards Code to allow for sale of food containing hemp is considered premature.

Additionally, the South Australian *Controlled Substances Act 1984* and the Controlled Substances (Controlled Drugs, Precursors and Plants) Regulations 2000 currently prohibit the cultivation, possession and consumption of tetrahydrocannabinol, cannabis and cannabis plants. An exemption exists for the sale of hemp seed oil (with a concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol not exceeding 50 mg/kg) for external use. Any permission in the Food Code would therefore be at odds with this legislation.