



WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES
WAHROONGA/HORNSBY UNION

Care 5/50 William St.,
HORNSBY, N.S.W. 2007

Food Standards Australia New Zealand,
P.O. Box 7186,
CANBERRA BC,
Australian Capital Territory.

SUBMISSION re Application A576 – Labelling of Alcoholic Beverages with a
Pregnancy Health Advisory Label.

We strongly support this Application because Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is a
range of irreversible damage that may be experienced by the foetus due to the
mother's consumption of alcohol during pregnancy.

We recognise that extreme symptoms such as skeletal abnormalities and defects to
the heart, liver, kidneys and genitals usually result from regular binge drinking and
alcohol abuse. However, even low consumption can cause neuro-development
problems resulting in poor memory and attention, hyperactivity and difficulty in
learning.

We are informed that the AMA supports this submission, and that most doctors do
warn women of the damage inherent in alcohol consumption while pregnant. But they
are also reluctant to diagnose FASD for fear of making mothers feel guilty, often
using the label ADHD instead. Hence the low figures quoted by those who oppose
warning labels. According to Dr. Elizabeth Elliot, Professor of Health at Westmead
Children's Hospital in Sydney, for every child diagnosed with FASD there are 10
more with developmental problems caused by alcohol.

We look forward to hearing that this application has been approved as even if the
warning saves only a small proportion of users from the heartache of a damaged
child it will be worthwhile.

Mrs. Letty Walsh, Honorary Secretary, on behalf of Concerned Members.