

Food Standards Australia New Zealand
Level 6
108 The Terrace
WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND
slo@foodstandards.gov.au

5 February 2008

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Application A576 – Labelling of Alcoholic Beverages with a Pregnancy Health Advisory Label

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners wishes to comment on the above consultation, relating to a proposed introduction of warning labels on alcoholic beverages. The College¹ provides support and advocacy for general practitioners (GPs) through the delivery of post-graduate education, professional development and quality initiatives, and a practice accreditation programme (Cornerstone). The College aims to improve the health of all New Zealanders by supporting and strengthening high quality care, and standards in general practice.

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) supports the inclusion of health warnings for pregnant women on the labels of alcoholic beverages. The College considers that such labeling will be an important addition to existing strategies to minimise the harm resulting from alcohol ingestion in pregnancy, evidence for which is referenced in the discussion document. The wording of the warning label should focus on heavy or binge drinking, as the evidence for this causing harm to the foetus is robust.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this issue. Please feel free to contact the College if you wish to discuss the matter further.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Stenson
DIRECTOR: GP SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY
astenson@rnzcgp.org.nz

¹ The College has a membership of approximately 3500 General Practitioners governed by Council. Regional faculties: Auckland, Waikato, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago-Southland, a rural faculty and a Maori faculty, Te Akoranga a Maui, allow members to be involved in discussion and decision-making at a local level. Each member is automatically a member of a faculty and receives information and notices of faculty activities directly