

4 February 2008

Submission

Food Standards Australia New Zealand
Canberra BC ACT 2610

INITIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT
APPLICATION A576
LABELLING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
WITH A PREGNANCY HEALTH ADVISORY LABEL"

I fully support the proposal for mandatory health advisory labels on all alcohol containers advising the risks of alcohol consumption especially to woman planning to conceive and who are pregnant.

The World Health Organisation recognises that the consumption of alcohol is a serious health risk especially to the health of an unborn child. There is scientific evidence available which shows that the brain of the foetus is affected by alcohol consumption. In the USA the increase of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders has lead to the recommendation that pregnant women or women planning to conceive abstain from drinking. Therefore I suggest that all labelling should reflect the dangers of alcohol and pregnant women should be advised to avoid the consumption of alcohol.

The National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines recommend not drinking is the safest option for pregnant women or those planning to conceive. This should be reflected in all labelling.

All consumers of alcohol should be advised of the dangers of consumption with special attention drawn to women considering pregnancy.

Labelling of alcohol should contain the following wording:

- Warning: Alcohol is a poisonous drug and should not be consumed.
- Women planning to conceive or who are pregnant put the foetus at risk by consuming alcohol.
- All labelling should include the harmful effects of alcohol on young people who are less than 25 years of age.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

Yours sincerely

Barbara Napper

