

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: Monday, 5 September 2005 10:50 PM
 To: [REDACTED]
 Subject: FSANZ: Applications and Submissions - Submission



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Monday, 5 September, 2005

1. **Assessment Report Number:** P298
2. **Assessment Report Title:** Benzoates and Sulphite Permissions in food
3. **Organisation Name:** Rachel Elliott
4. **Organisation Type:** Individual
5. **Representing:** [REDACTED]
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12. Submission Text: My family of four are all asthmatic. Our exposure to suphtites is very difficult to control as they are in most processed 'sandwich' meats, sausages, cordials, wine, etc etc. Our attempt to control exposure due to knowledge of the dangers is only recent, and I feel not enough information is supplied to the public on the dangers of sulphites. Many people I know still feed sausages to their asthmatic children, as they assume if it was dangerous, 'the government' would not allow its use. I wish for the allowable use of sulphites to be reduced greatly and alternatives such as irradiation or acceptance of discolouration (of items such as apricots) as cosmetic be rigourously pursued. Supermarkets/butchers could also alter the way they market sausages, and sell them as a frozen product, to be cooked on day defrosted. Warning labels should be placed on foods containing sulphites, as they are for other chemicals that have been proved dangerous to your health. I hope that your organisation will take this seriously. The incidence of asthma in our community is rising, and the widespread and effectively unavoidable consumption of sulphites is a major contributor. I also deplore the use of benzoates in almost all sunscreens. As very fair people living in [REDACTED], we have to use sunscreen daily, and it has made doing the RPA elimination diet very difficult, as we cannot avoid benzoates with out risking future skin cancer. Some zinc based sunscreens do not contain benzoates, but Zinc only sunscreens do not seem to be as effective, from my experience. My point being, if it is possible for example [REDACTED] invisible zinc cream to be preservative free, why do other brands require benzoates? Benzoates have been identified by the RPA hospital as causing intolerances. If benzoates are used as

antioxidants in many cases, their use should be replaced by an antioxidant without intolerance risks. The escalation of asthma, ADHD and violence in our society has come alongside the explosion in use of additives and consumption of the processed foods that contain those additives. RPA Hospital has done wonderful work in identifying problem food chemicals. Could now that work be recognised by FSANZ, as the millions of people whose health is at risk deserve to be protected from greedy companies who want to produce and market a product, rather than being concerned beyond a litigation risk management position with the health of its consumers. Yours sincerely, Rachel Elliott.

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