

**From:** [incident](#)  
**To:** [@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au](#); [\(SA\)](#); [@health.gov.au](#); [\(safefood QLD\)](#); [Blenman, Patricia](#); [\(Tas DPIWE\)](#); [\(NSW\)](#); [Dairy Safe VIC](#); [@dairysafe.vic.gov.au](#); [Domestic Food Regulation \(Agriculture\)](#); [\(Agriculture\)](#); [- VIC Health](#) ([@dhhs.vic.gov.au](#)); [\(SA\)](#); [- VIC Health](#) ([@dhhs.vic.gov.au](#)); [Food Incidents](#); [Food Recalls](#); [Hill, Amanda](#); [incident](#); [\(ACT Health\)](#); [@health.gov.au](#); [\(OzFoodNet\)](#); [\(Agriculture\)](#); [\(NZ\)](#); [National Incident Room \(Health\)](#); [NSW Food Incident](#); [\(Tas DPIWE\)](#); [OzFoodNet generic \(Health\)](#); [\(Agriculture\)](#); [\(PIRSA\)](#); [@dhhs.vic.gov.au](#); [@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au](#); [Polegubic, Veronica](#); [QLD generic](#); [@act.gov.au](#); [\(DHHS\)](#); [@dhhs.tas.gov.au](#); [@safefood.qld.gov.au](#); [@dhhs.tas.gov.au](#); [\(WA\)](#); [\(WA\)](#); [\(Health\)](#); [\(Tas\)](#); [Agriculture](#) ([@agriculture.gov.au](#)); [TAS Incident generic](#); [\(QLD\)](#); [\(Agriculture\)](#); [\(NT\)](#); [@sa.gov.au](#); [\(Agriculture- Imported Food\)](#)  
**Cc:** [incident](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INFORMATION: ABC media enquiry to FSANZ on nanoparticles in infant formula [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 14 June 2017 1:38:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [Nano-hydroxyapatite.msg](#)

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## FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Dear Network members

Further to the issue sent to the BFSN on 25/5/17, Friends of the Earth have provided Fairfax reporter Esther Han with the report on nanoscale particles in infant formula. Esther has asked a number of questions (her email is attached). Our statement in response can be found below.

FSANZ is also preparing website content and social media in anticipation of the story.

Hi Esther

We have provided a statement below. FSANZ is concerned that an extremely vulnerable section of the community will be unnecessarily scared by this work and we therefore would appreciate balanced reporting on this issue.

### **FSANZ statement in response to nanoparticle detection in infant formula**

FSANZ scientists (along with experts who make up an expert advisory group on nanotechnology) have examined the data provided in the PowerPoint. The findings do not contain any new information to suggest that these products might pose a public health and safety risk.

FSANZ takes concerns about food safety extremely seriously. FSANZ does not believe that there is a risk to infant health and safety.

Hydroxyapatite is a mineral. It is a natural component of bone and teeth. It is a source of calcium and phosphate, and small amounts in food are likely to readily dissolve in the stomach to release these minerals which are beneficial when absorbed. Both calcium and phosphate are required to be in infant formula as nutritive substances. The presence of a substance in food (regardless of size), that is not in the additive schedule, does not mean there is a safety concern. Particles (nanoscale or otherwise) could be present in food unintentionally as a result of food processing techniques. Nanoparticles also occur naturally and can be found in foods.

The EC Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) opinion on hydroxyapatite considered that the information provided by applicants was insufficient to draw a conclusion on safety when used in oral cosmetic products (e.g. toothpaste, whiteners, mouth washes) at levels of up to 10%. In reaching this conclusion, the SCCS noted that the hydroxyapatite materials under consideration could not clearly be related to the data submitted.

The SCCS report is considered of limited relevance to the detection of trace amounts of hydroxyapatite in the FoE-commissioned study of infant formula.

Several of your questions relate to enforcement and compliance. FSANZ is not an

enforcement agency and does not have the power under its legislation to initiate a recall.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

National Food Incident Response

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The incident mailbox ([REDACTED]) is monitored Monday to Friday during the hours 9am-5pm (Canberra time) and intermittently after hours. If there is a food safety issue after hours which requires immediate attention please also contact the after hours mobile 0412 166 965.

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**From:** incident

**Sent:** Thursday, 25 May 2017 10:25 AM

**Subject:** FOR INFORMATION: ABC media enquiry to FSANZ on nanoparticles in infant formula [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Dear Network members

FSANZ recently received a media enquiry from the ABC about nanoparticles in Australia infant formula. The journalist provided the results of the testing (see attached PowerPoint). Our response to the journalist's questions is also attached.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FOOD SAFETY & RESPONSE | FOOD STANDARDS AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

[REDACTED]

The incident mailbox ([REDACTED]) is monitored Monday to Friday during the hours 9am-5pm (Canberra time) and intermittently after hours. If there is a food safety issue after hours which requires immediate attention please also contact the after hours mobile 0412 166 965.