Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Food Standards Australia New Zealand
Submissions
PO Box 5423
Kingston ACT 2604

Via email: submissions@foodstandards.gov.au

Dear FSANZ Submissions

APPLICATION A1265 – 2'FL/DFL, LNT, 6'-SL SODIUM SALT AND 3'-SL SODIUM SALT AS NUTRITIVE SUBSTANCES IN INFANT FORMULA PRODUCTS

Thank you for providing the Department of Health (DOH) Western Australia with the opportunity to provide comment on A1265. It is unfortunate that DOH WA has limited capacity to provide comment on SD1 A1265 – 2′-FL/DFL, LNT, 6′-SL sodium salt and 3′-SL sodium salt for use as nutritive substances in infant formula products. The department has prioritised its resources to P1028; the review of infant formula which is due on the same date as A1265 and was therefore unable to undertake a comprehensive review of A1265. Noting this DOH WA would like to highlight the following areas of concern.

This application uses the measure of growth (weight gain g/day) as an outcome indicator for the effectiveness of the addition of HiMO to infant formula as outlined in the nutrition assessment. Weight gain, and weight gain to approximately four months of age in all three peer review studies presented to support the addition of HiMO to infant formula, presents a limited perspective of the feasibility of the addition of HiMO to affect growth, (and other outcomes) given the limited energy value associated with HiMO and the limited investigative time frame. Other anthropometric measures to 12 months are mentioned as being adequate against WHO growth standards however longer term studies are required to determine effect of HiMOs on nutrition and safety outcomes and it is naïve to consider that an identical intake level of substrate in infant formula as observed in human milk does not by itself ensure safety and suitability.(Carlson, Schipper et al. 2021)

Without embarking on further review of A1265, DOH notes the lack of application of the Ministerial Policy Guideline on the Regulation of Infant Formula Products. With regard to this point, DOH WA brings to the attention of FSANZ the April 4, 2023 FMM and the consensus for the convening of *a FRSC working group to examine the evidence required to substantiate whether an infant formula product has a beneficial role in the normal growth and development of infants including considering the cumulative effects*.

In summary, and with all due respect for the statutory timeframes governing A1256, it is disappointing that this application was presented at a time of competing priorities and that the final outcomes of P1028, and or the convening of the FRSC working group had not been finalised prior to this application being sent out for consultation.

Thank you for considering the above comments. Should you wish to discuss any of these comments please do not hesitate to contact the [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

7 July 2023

References

Carlson, S. E., L. Schipper, J. T. Brenna, C. Agostoni, P. C. Calder, S. Forsyth, P. Legrand, M. Abrahamse-Berkeveld, B. J. M. van de Heijning, E. M. van der Beek, B. V. Koletzko and B. Muhlhausler (2021). "Perspective: Moving Toward Desirable Linoleic Acid Content in Infant Formula." Advances in Nutrition **12**(6): 2085-2098.