



Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PO Box 7186
Canberra BC ACT 2610
Email: slo@foodstandards.gov.au

Dear Colleagues,

Submission regarding Application A576
Labelling of Alcoholic Beverages with a Pregnancy Health Advisory Label

Role of the ACT Human Rights Commission

The ACT Human Rights Commission is established pursuant to the *Human Rights Commission Act 2005* (the HRC Act). It commenced operation on 1 November 2006. The objects of the HRC Act include:

- promotion of the human rights and welfare of people living in the ACT by making recommendations to government and non-government agencies on legislation, policies, practices and services that affect vulnerable groups in the community.¹
- promotion of the rights of users of disability services, health services, services for children and young people and services for older people and
- promotion of improvements in services for those groups.²

A576 – Labelling of Alcoholic Beverages

The Commission supports the mandatory labelling of alcoholic beverages to warn women of the risks to their developing child. The Commission is of the view that the health of the unborn child is paramount when considering the issue of warning labels on alcoholic beverages and hence should take precedence over any regulatory concerns that would halt this change being implemented.

The ACT Human Rights Commission endorses the submission of the Queensland Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian (dated 4 February 2008), including the call for the extension of any health labelling to include the risks of drinking alcohol when breastfeeding.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Crebbin
Children and Young People Commissioner
Disability and Community Services Commissioner

Mary Durkin
Health Services Commissioner

06 February 2008

¹ s.6(a)(iii) of the HRC Act.

² ss.6(b) - (d) of the HRC Act.