



9 November 2013

To: Food Standards Australia New Zealand, FSANZ
From Neonatal Nurses College of Aotearoa, NNCA NZNO

RE: Proposal P274 – Minimum Age Labelling of Foods for Infants

Please accept this feedback from NNCA.
NNCA are a professional college of the New Zealand Nurses Association.

Objectives of the NNCA

- To promote the networking of neonatal nurses, nationally and internationally.
- To provide educational opportunities for Neonatal nurses and to disseminate information regarding neonatal educational programmes.
- To support and encourage New Zealand neonatal nurses to contribute to the international body of neonatal knowledge.
- To raise public awareness of issues relating to the care of neonates.
- To ensure that the views of neonatal nurses are represented in relevant health policy issues.
- To disseminate information to neonatal nurses throughout New Zealand via regular newsletters and electronic media
- To develop / formalise standards and recommendations for neonatal nursing practice

NNCA agree with the proposed amendments to Standard 2.9.2 to include

- youngest minimum age declaration required on a label of an infant food is ‘around 6 months’ and for this wording to be displayed on first-stage weaning foods
- the age (number) should always appear on the front of the food label.
- A warning statement ‘not before 4 months of age’ is proposed to apply only to foods labelled as ‘around 6 months’ however, the placement of that statement need not be in association with the minimum age statement.

The proposed changes will align the recommendations to the 2013 Australian Infant Feeding Guidelines, and the 2008 New Zealand Infant Feeding Guidelines, which continue to recommend solid food at ‘around 6 months’ of age. Standardization of recommendations will avoid confusion to health workers and caregivers.

These guidelines also recommend exclusive Breast-Feeding until 6 months of age and NNCA also recommend that this statement be included on the labelling of foods for infants.

Annie Marshall



Chairperson NNCA