



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera
Wahine O Aotearoa

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S01.62

**Submission to the Australia New Zealand Food Authority on
Proposal P24 Folate Pilot revisions to list of approved products**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand, Te Kaunihera Wahine of Aotearoa (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 43 nationally organised societies. It has 34 branches throughout the country to which women from some 150 societies are affiliated.

The Consumer Affairs Committee of NCWNZ thanks ANZFA for the opportunity to comment on Proposal P244 Folate Pilot revisions "Health Claims – List of approved products".

Neural tube defects (NTD) affects about 1 pregnancy in 700 in Australia, however evidence suggests that an adequate intake of folate can reduce this risk. The revised Standard 9 of the Australian Food Standards Code allows staple foods to be fortified with folate and to be labelled with a health claim to that effect. ANZFA monitors such claims and checks that these foods contain a minimum of 40 micrograms folate per serving. Proposal 244 lists 14 products which no longer meet this requirement.

The Consumer Affairs Committee of NCWNZ has supported Proposals 218 and 221 which approved the use of folate/NTD claims by a number of products (00/m/04; 00/m/06). In addition, the NCWNZ submission to ANZFA on the Review of Health and Health Related Claims, Proposal P153, stressed, under Stakeholders views of Health Claims, that NCWNZ "believe that if claims cannot be verified and substantiated they cannot be made." (S00.66)

Conclusion

The Consumer Affairs Committee, NCWNZ supports ANZFA's action in revising the list of approved products to remove products that are no longer compliant with the Australian Food Standards Code.

Barbara Glenie
National President

Eileen Imlach
Convener, Consumer Affairs Standing Committee

