



## **PIRSA Food Safety NEWS**

**Issue 1- March 2002**

Welcome to the first edition of the PIRSA Food Safety News. I have recently been appointed as PIRSA Food Safety Communication Officer. My primary role is to develop mechanisms to inform stakeholders of the progress in food safety in PIRSA, in South Australia and nationally. Some of you I have already met and others I look forward to meeting in the near future.

To start the information wheels turning I have developed a monthly newsletter that will provide key stakeholders with an overview of the current developments in food safety on the South Australian and national front. Where possible I will also provide references for further reading for those that want to know more about a particular topic.

I trust that the newsletter keeps you informed and invite you to provide feedback to assist me in satisfying your information needs.

**Barrie Paynter**  
Food Safety Communication Officer - PIRSA

### **Key Developments**

#### **Draft Discussion Paper**

The draft discussion paper titled "*Legislation for implementation of food safety systems in the primary industry sector*" has been distributed to key industry stakeholders for comment. The draft paper has been prepared to encourage discussion about the proposal for a new act to implement food safety programs and standards in the primary processing and production areas.

For more details contact Chris Etherton on 8226 0531.

#### **DHS and PIRSA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**

A draft MOU between PIRSA and DHS for surveillance, incident response and regulation of food safety in the primary

industry sector has been developed. The document is currently with the PIRSA Executive. However, there may be delays in final signing due to the current changes occurring in government. For more details contact Chris Etherton on 8226 0531.

#### **New Ministers**

The new Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries is the Hon. PAUL HOLLOWAY, BSc, BE (Hons), BEc, MLC.

The new Minister for Health is the Hon. LEA STEVENS, BSc, DipEd, MP.

#### **ANZFA Seeks Public Feedback on Changes to Food Laws**

Includes Uncooked Salami and Mettwurst and Limits of Chemical Residues in Food.

More info: [www.anzfa.gov.au/](http://www.anzfa.gov.au/)

## SA Update

### Risk Profile for Food Safety Primary Industries Sector

Dr John Sumner (M & S Food Consultants) with the support of Dr Tom Ross and Prof Tom McKeekin (Uni of Tasmania) are conducting a risk profile for primary industry in SA. John is currently a visiting Research Professor with the University of Tasmania. The team has broad experience assessing hazards and risks in the primary industry sector, having managed projects internationally and nationally. The team recently completed the national seafood risk assessment.

John will present an interim report to the Primary Industry Food Safety Steering Committee (PIFSSC) on 12 April 2002. For more details contact Geoff Raven on 8207 7871

### Food Act 2001

The regulations under the Food Act 2001 are expected to be submitted for Cabinet endorsement in the coming months.

### Recent Appointments

#### PIRSA

**Paul Dowsett** – Food Safety Officer (Seafood). Paul's aim is to maintain market access for SA seafood and aquaculture products through improved food safety practices and the uptake of food safety initiatives. Paul can be contacted on 8207 7934 or via e-mail at

[dowsett.paul@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:dowsett.paul@saugov.sa.gov.au)

**Barrie Paynter** – Food Safety Communication Officer. My primary role is to develop mechanisms to inform stakeholders of the progress in food safety in PIRSA, in South Australia and nationally. I can be contacted on 8226 0392 or via e-mail at [paynter.barrie2@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:paynter.barrie2@saugov.sa.gov.au)

#### DHS

**Viv Greaves** – Manager Food Reform Support Section. Viv's role is to ensure the adoption of food safety reform by the 15,000 or so food businesses in SA by establishing the processes to drive the reform

experience and coordinate input across govt portfolios and industry. Viv can be contacted on 8226 7165 or via e-mail at [viv.greaves@dhs.sa.gov.au](mailto:viv.greaves@dhs.sa.gov.au)

### Primary Industries Food Safety Steering Committee (PIFSSC)

Next meeting scheduled for 12 April 2002

Australia's exports of processed food and beverages achieved an outstanding 21% growth in nominal terms during 2000-01, generating export earnings for Australia of \$12 billion. (source: AFFA Food News Dec 2001 [www.affa.gov.au/foodinfo](http://www.affa.gov.au/foodinfo))

## National Update

### ANZ Food Regulation Ministerial Council (ANZFRMC)

Next meeting proposed for 24 May 2002

### ANZ Food Regulation Standing Committee (ANZFRSC)

Next meeting 19 March 2002 and proposed for 28 August 2002

Key agenda items for the 19 March 2002 meeting include:

- Country of Origin Labelling
- Primary Products Standards
- Surveillance and Monitoring of Food Borne Pathogens: a Paddock to Plate Approach
- Strategic Policy Issues
- Consultative Mechanism
- Microbiological Limits for Food
- National Food Safety Projects Update
- MRLs –response from the Expert Advisory Group on Antibiotic Resistance (EAGAR)

## **ANZFA (soon to be FSANZ)**

ANZFA has released a research report on food handling practices in Australian food businesses. The report titled *National Food Handling Benchmark Report* is available at the site listed below.

The ANZ Food Surveillance Newsletter (previously FoodWatchANZ) summer edition is also available at the same site. This publication is designed to keep you up to date with food surveillance and monitoring activities in Aust and NZ and can only be accessed on line.

At the same location is the Feb 2002 Food Standards News Number 34.

Go to:

[www.anzfa.gov.au/mediareleasespublications/](http://www.anzfa.gov.au/mediareleasespublications/)

## **Development and Implementation Sub-Committee (DISC)**

A DISC Working Group has been established to develop a definition for the term 'substantial transformation'. The working group, which is chaired by Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia (AFFA) and comprises of representatives from ANZFA, SA and Vic will develop an options paper for national agreement on the term.

Next Meeting of DISC is 30 April 2002 in Adelaide.

## **Cwlth Dept of Health and Ageing (DoHA)**

DoHA has established OzFoodNet to improve food borne disease surveillance in humans. OzFoodNet is a major investment in the surveillance of communicable diseases associated with food, and will facilitate the estimation of costs of food borne illness and identify strategies for its prevention. OzFoodNet findings and recommendations are available at [www.health.gov.au/pubhlth/cdi/cdicur](http://www.health.gov.au/pubhlth/cdi/cdicur) (scroll down through the publications to find the OzFoodNet quarterly reports).

The jointly funded (NSW Health and DoHA) *National Food Safety Risk Validation Study* and the DoHA funded study *Food Safety Management Systems, Costs, Benefits and Alternatives* are nearing completion. The

purpose of these studies is to risk stratify food businesses and to assess the relative costs and benefits of introducing food safety program requirements

## **SafeFood NSW**

A ministerial review of the NSW Safe Food Production Act 1998 began in Dec 2001 and is due to be tabled in NSW parliament before 18 Dec 2002. The review will consider the coverage and effectiveness of operational food safety programs and whether food safety operations undertaken by different govt agencies in NSW should be undertaken by a single agency.

The Seafood branch introduced the Seafood Safety Scheme in Dec 2001. More info: [www.safefood.nsw.gov.au/services/seafood/update](http://www.safefood.nsw.gov.au/services/seafood/update).

## **SafeFood Qld**

The Jan 2001 edition of the QLD newsletter - *Production Lines* can be accessed at: [www.safefood.qld.gov.au/home/default.htm](http://www.safefood.qld.gov.au/home/default.htm) (go to Publications.)

## **ACT**

Results of recent microbiological surveys (raw chilled chicken and seed sprouts) by the ACT Health Protection Service are available at:

[www.health.act.gov.au/publications/foodsurvey/1999-2000/index](http://www.health.act.gov.au/publications/foodsurvey/1999-2000/index)

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**Contact us** if you would like more information on an article, have feedback or a suggestion, or would like to submit a report/information for a future issue. Please call or e-mail:

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Next issue scheduled for 10 April 2002