

Food and Nutrition Special Interest Group (FANSIG) Member Update March-April 2009

1. New Members- A very big welcome to all our new members who have joined since the start of 2009. We look forward to your involvement with FANSIG.

Those who have joined us since March are; Miss Seti Razavi, Ms Najmah Najmah, Ms Lydia Deutscher, Mr Stuart Gordon, Miss Jenna Flower, Miss Sonya Breen, Ms Karen Moore, Miss Kerry Nicole Oldfield, Dr Tofieq Shahwali, Ms Helen Henderson, Miss Ingrid Currington, Ms Vicky Totikidis, Miss Navreen Kular, Ms Daisy Barham, Dr Marian Abouzeid, Ms Alison Churchill, Ms Liz O'Loughlin.

2. Executive Committee Resignation- Simone Lawson, the 2007-08 National co-convenor has accepted a position as Nutrition Advisor with Save the Children Fund-UK based in Myanmar. Her family will be moving to Myanmar in several weeks to commence the position. Her position of Nutrition Advisor will work closely with the Health, Food Security and the Hunger Reduction teams for STC. The focus is on children under 5 with lots of issues about falling breastfeeding rates, malnutrition and of course general poor health and living conditions. It will no doubt be fascinating work from a public health perspective. FANSIG wishes Simone and her family all the best and look forward to updates about her experiences, particularly the child rights perspective. Simone hope to remain a PHAA and FANSIG member whilst away, but that will depend on the internet access and other communication infrastructure!

Thanks to Trish Carter from SA Dept of Health for joining the FANSIG executive committee since the 2008 AGM.

3. Advocacy –FANSIG have made submissions since March to- 1. Options Consultation Paper: Intent of Part 2.9 of the Food Standards Code – Special Purpose Foods and 2. Food Regulation Secretariat Consultation paper for a Front of Pack Labelling Policy Guideline. See the PHAA website for the final submissions <http://www.phaa.net.au/submissions.php>

4. Upcoming Advocacy- FANSIG will be preparing submissions in the following key areas. These are critical issues for public health nutrition in Australia. If you'd like to be on a working party to prepare one of these submissions please contact Andrea Begley National Co-convenor, particularly P293 due in several weeks.

4.1 FSANZ- Proposal P293 Nutrition, Health and Related Claims Consultation Paper for First Review- comments due by Friday 15th May.

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/standardsdevelopment/proposals/proposalp293nutritionhealthandrelatedclaims/index.cfm>

4.2 NHMRC- Core Food Groups and Dietary Guidelines Review-ongoing. Please complete the current online survey if you haven't http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/your_health/healthy/nutrition/survey.htm . Core Food Groups public consultation is due August 2009.

http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/your_health/healthy/nutrition/review.htm

4.3 Ministerial Comprehensive Review Food Labelling Law and Policy- ongoing

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/6C8C69E90DF4BFF0CA2574EC00191687/\\$File/dept241008.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/6C8C69E90DF4BFF0CA2574EC00191687/$File/dept241008.pdf)

4.4 Senate Inquiry (continuing) into Australian food production is talking submissions by until Nov 2009. Senate is interested in Food production in Australia and the question of how to produce food that is: a) affordable to consumers; b) viable for production by farmers; and c) of sustainable impact on the environment. http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/agric_ctte/food_production/index.htm

5. FANSIG member support needed- *International Code of Marketing of Breast milk Substitutes-* The hard copy of the April Edition of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health should have arrived in your mailboxes. You will find a postcard with a photo of a

very cute baby on it! The message on the back of the postcard is urging the Minister for Health and Ageing to implement the World Health Organisation International Code of Marketing of Breast milk Substitutes and subsequent World Health Assembly Resolutions in law or by an enforceable code, to prevent unethical marketing by those seeking to sell infant formula. PHAA, along with a number of other national organisations, is supporting the postcard campaign, which is consistent with PHAA policy. We ask that you consider signing and sending the postcard, which is addressed to Minister Roxon, in support of the campaign. You will need to pop a stamp on the postcard to ensure that it reaches its destination.

6. National PHAA Conference “Making a difference” – 27th -30th Sept to Canberra. FANSIG in conjunction with Health Promotion SIG is conducting a workshop on **Sunday 27th Sept from 2:30pm to 5pm**. It is anticipated that the workshop will be free to FANSIG members however numbers will be limited to 60. Please mark in your diary and get those travel applications in to attend. Conference brochure now out
<http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/RegistrationBrochure08.pdf>

WORKSHOP: Food-related interventions to improve public health. With the background of the PHAA Food and Nutrition Monitoring and Surveillance policy, this workshop presents an approach from food and nutrition policy to action. This workshop is designed for public health professionals interested in food-related interventions to improve nutrition and help prevent chronic disease in Australia. There will be a focus on the current situation in Australia with presenters providing a snapshot of the 2007 Australian National Children's Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey results. A theoretical framework will be used to explore the drivers and leverage points for interventions to improve nutrition. A panel of experienced public health nutritionists will present case studies of food-related public health intervention options. Attendees will workshop possible food-related interventions and methods of selection. The workshop will discuss some of these questions:

What are Australian children are eating?

- How are we doing in relation to the 'big five' -heavily marketed foods that are considered 'junk foods' by some definitions?
- How are we doing in relation to core food consumption consistent with dietary recommendations?
- What does this mean in terms of diet quality or protective dietary patterns?

How do we select food-related interventions to improve public health?

- What types of interventions are worth considering?
- What information is needed to support intervention selection?
- What are some of the lessons learned from current food related interventions?

Where to from here?

7. FANSIG Policy Updates- Our umbrella policy 'Food and Health' and the position statement on TV advertising of food to children in conjunction with Child Health SIG are being updated this year. Members will have the chance to comment on these updates in the next month. You can view these policies on the PHAA website. Early comments welcome.

Next FANSIG Executive Committee Meeting Thursday 30th April at 4pm EST. If you have any issues and/or points you'd like to raise please contact your National Co-convenors any time.

Regards,

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FANSIG National Co-convenors 2008-09