

Food and Nutrition Special Interest Group (FANSIG) Member Activity Update January to February 2009

It has been a busy start to the year for FANSIG. Following is a summary of what FANSIG has been involved with and what is coming up that you as a member can get involved in.

1. Friday 2nd Jan: Submission to the *National Preventative Health Taskforce*. A big thank you to Dr Christina Pollard for the preparation of FANSIG's component of PHAA's submission to the taskforce. Thanks to the many FANSIG members who took the time to respond with suggestions for inclusion. You can access the final submission at <http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/20090102SubmissionPHT.pdf>

2. Monday 2nd Feb: PHAA's *A Future of Food* was launched- see more details at PHAA's home page <http://www.phaa.net.au/Home.php> ACT NOW: Support A Future for Food Do you support the PHAA call to establish a food policy in Australia that genuinely addresses the key issues of public health, sustainability and equity? This launch gained much media exposure in newspapers nationally and Michael Moore CEO did several long radio interviews.

3. Thursday 19th Feb: Next FANSIG executive committee teleconference. If members have any items/issues they'd like to raise please email Andrea Begley a.begley@curtin.edu.au or leave a message on 08 9266 2773. These teleconferences are generally held bimonthly.

4. Friday 20th Feb- submissions due for House of Representatives *Inquiry into Community Stores in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities*. PHAA's and DAA's Food Security for ATSI Policy will form this basis for PHAA's submission for this Inquiry. The policy was launched 13th Jan 2009 You can find the media release at <http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/mediaRelease/MediaReleaseFoodInsecurityinIndigenousAustralians.pdf> and a copy of the policy http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/policy/20090112_newFoodSecurityforATSI PeoplesjointpolicywithDAA.pdf

If FANSIG members have any key points not covered in the Food Security for ATSI people that are important to include please contact Andrea Begley on a.begley@curtin.edu.au or leave a message on 08 9266 2773 by the 18/2/09.

5. Wednesday 25th Feb: *FSANZ Workshop on Food Composition Databases*
Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is conducting a review of its food composition program, which will include FSANZ's NUTTAB 2006 and AUSNUT 2007 databases. International food composition expert, Dr Isabel Castanheira from the Portuguese National Health Institute will be visiting FSANZ later this month to undertake the review. As part of this process, FSANZ is holding a workshop with external stakeholders from a broad range of areas to discuss FSANZ's food composition program.

Dr Christina Pollard will represent FANSIG at this workshop. If you have any points/issues you'd like raised please contact Christina by email c.pollard@curtin.edu.au or phone 08 9388 4983.

6. Monday 15th June 2009: Policy Revisions-FANSIG has two policies/position statements which are due for revision in 2009. These are listed below. If you have an interest in being involved with the revision of either of these please contact one of the co-convenors. These revisions must be completed by Monday 15th June 2009 so they can be put up at the AGM.

1. Television Food Advertising During Children's Viewing Times – Position Statement (*Food and Nutrition SIG to lead drafting with input from Child Health SIG*);
2. Food and Health Policy

7. DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: 28th to 30th Sept 2009 PHAA 39th National Conference Making a Difference: Intervening to improve health outcomes in Canberra. FANSIG is in the process of planning to run a workshop for all PHAA members at this conference.

From *Andrea Begley and Christina Pollard National Co-convenors FANSIG 2008 to 2009*