

University of Wollongong

Research Online

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health -
Papers: part A

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

2010

National review of food label law & policy - Australia

Heather Yeatman

University of Wollongong, hyeatman@uow.edu.au

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/smhpapers>



Part of the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#), and the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Yeatman, Heather, "National review of food label law & policy - Australia" (2010). *Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health - Papers: part A*. 1887.
<https://ro.uow.edu.au/smhpapers/1887>

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library: research-pubs@uow.edu.au

National review of food label law & policy - Australia

Abstract

Australia is the first country in the world to undertake a complete review of food label law and policy. This independent Review Panel is charged with examining current policies, standards and laws relevant to food labelling; the policy drivers impacting on demands for food labelling; and the policies and mechanisms that are needed to ensure that government plays its optimum role. Particular areas of nutrition focus include health claims and front of pack labelling. The genesis of the review was Australian governments' commitment to regulatory reform to create a seamless national economy, reduce the regulatory burden, and maintain or increase the competitiveness of Australian businesses. This was to occur without compromising public health and safety. Two rounds of public comment have been received. The first round included over 6000 general submissions from industry, community organisations, government agencies and individuals. In the second round, comment was sought on a range of questions posed in an Issues Paper prepared by the Review Panel. These submissions, together with published evidence from the literature and empirical research form the basis of the Review Panel's recommendations to government. This paper positions public health nutrition concerns within this comprehensive review of food label law and policy. Considerations include the role of the food label to effectively communicate with consumers and their ever increasing expectations, while juggling the national and international requirements of industry, Codex, WHO, food safety, developments in technology and challenges of environmental, water and fuel constraints.

Keywords

policy, australia, law, national, label, food, review

Disciplines

Medicine and Health Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences

Publication Details

Yeatman, H. (2010). National review of food label law & policy - Australia. In Abstract of the II World Congress of Public Health Nutrition, 23-25 Sep, 2010, Porto, Portugal. *Public Health Nutrition*, 13 (9A), 280.

Resultados El 90% de la población cree que la información nutricional es un aspecto imprescindible en el etiquetado alimentario y una herramienta muy útil para llevar una dieta equilibrada; sin embargo, algo más del 42% encuentra dificultades a la hora de interpretarla. El 75% reconoce que la mayoría de los productos contienen la información nutricional. Tres de cada cinco entrevistados piensa que la información expresada mediante la CDO/GDA, comparada con la que aporta la tabla clásica (100 g/ml), es más clara (61%), ayuda más a llevar una dieta equilibrada (62%), aporta más información (56%) y, en definitiva, gusta más (58,7%).

CONSUMER ATTITUDES TO NUTRITION INFORMATION AND FOOD LABELING

[1] Kriaucioniene Vilma, Institute for Biomedical Research, Kaunas University of Medicine [2] Petkeviciene Janina, Institute for Biomedical Research, Kaunas University of Medicine

Background. Foodstuff labeling is an efficient tool of information provision to consumers, enabling them to choose healthy food to suit individual dietary needs. **Objectives.** To evaluate food label use in Lithuanian adult population. **Methods.** In 2008 random sample of 3000 Lithuanians aged 20-64 was taken from the National Population Register. The study material was collected by mailed questionnaire. The response rate was 60.7%. The respondents were asked 'how often they read the food labels?' and what information they looking for. Logistic regression analysis was used to examine the patterning of sociodemographic differences in food label use. **Results.** Food label use was significantly higher among women than men: 43% of men and 60% of women read food labels almost always when they purchased packaged foods. Use of food label decreased with age in women. No age differences were found in men. Food label use was significantly related to the level of education. Men and women with higher education more frequently read food labels compared to those with incomplete secondary education (OR=5.54, CI=3.71-8.28 and OR=5.79, CI=4.01-8.34 respectively). Food label use in rural population was less common than in urban population. The majority of respondents (89%) read information about product expiry date, 65% - about food ingredients, 63% - about food additives, 62% - about price, 39% - about nutrient contents, and 32% - about food weight, 28% - about energy value. Overweight women looked for energy value more frequently than those with normal weight (OR=1.64, CI=1.26-2.13). Men with high cholesterol were more likely than those with normal cholesterol to look for energy value (OR=2.30, CI=1.28-4.12). **Conclusion.** Food nutrition label use was associated with social factors and health problems.

MANDATORY WARNING LABELS ON FOOD AS MEASURE FOR FOOD SAFETY - NORWEGIAN CONSUMERS' VIEWS

[1] Roos, Gun; SIFO - National Institute for Consumer Research

Mandatory warning labels on food products (i.e. messages that have to be included on the package) represent an increasingly important measure to protect the population against health hazards from intake of foods. To assess if the use of warning labels is an effective measure we need to know more about how consumers view and use warning labels on food. Quantitative and qualitative data were used to explore Norwegian consumers' views, understandings and use of warning labels on food, and if warning labels on food are an appropriate measure for food safety. A web survey (N=1001; 15-87 years) was carried out to investigate consumers' views of warning labels of food and their perceptions of food safety and responsibility. Two focus groups were conducted to get information on consumers' understanding of warning labels on food in everyday practice, dilemmas and responsibility. In addition, a stakeholder meeting was arranged to get wider input on consumer views on warning labelling. The results show that Norwegian consumers have little knowledge and awareness about warning labels (except for certain established warnings). The consumers did not voice very clear opinions, not even stakeholders. There was a focus on needs of particularly vulnerable groups (allergy,

children), but scepticism about warning labels on food products imposed by larger groups on an everyday basis. Norwegian consumers seem to have a positive general view of getting more information including warning labels on food although their awareness of warning labels was limited. They seemed to view warning labels as an extension of what authorities should do and as providing better transparency and accountability. Based on the current study it is not possible to conclude what views consumers have on the use of warning labels on food as a new type of regulation as an alternative measure to banning hazardous substances in food.

NATIONAL REVIEW OF FOOD LABEL LAW & POLICY AUSTRALIA

[1] Yeatman, Heather; University of Wollongong, School of Health Sciences

Australia is the first country in the world to undertake a complete review of food label law and policy. This independent Review Panel is charged with examining current policies, standards and laws relevant to food labelling, the policy drivers impacting on demands for food labelling, and the policies and mechanisms that are needed to ensure that government plays an optimum role. Particular areas of nutrition focus include health claims and front of pack labelling. The genesis of the review was Australia's governments' commitment to regulatory reform to create a vibrant national economy, reduce the regulatory burden, and maintain or increase the competitiveness of Australian businesses. This was to occur without compromising public health and safety. Two rounds of public comment have been received. The first round included over 6000 general submissions from industry, community organisations, government agencies and individuals. In the second round, comment was sought on a range of questions posed in an Issues Paper prepared by the Review Panel. These submissions, together with published evidence from the literature and empirical research form the basis of the Review Panel's recommendations to government. This paper positions public health nutrition concerns within this comprehensive review of food label law and policy. Considerations include the role of the food label to effectively communicate with consumers and their ever increasing expectations, while juggling the national and international requirements of industry, Codex, WHO, food safety, developments in technology and challenges of environmental, water and fuel constraints. What are the essential nutrition and health information requirements of food labels? What can we expect consumers to understand? How can the food label contribute to promotion of health and wellness; ameliorating chronic disease management of chronic conditions; and avoidance of nutrient deficiencies?

CONFIRMATION OF PROBITICS PRESENCE OF THE GENUS BIFIDOBACTERIUM IN FOOD AND SUPPLEMENTS

[1] González-Martínez, Blanca Edelia; Facultad de Salud Pública y Nutrición, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León. [2] Jiménez-Salán, Zacarías; Facultad de Salud Pública y Nutrición, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León. [3] López-Cabanillas Lomelí, Manuel; Facultad de Salud Pública y Nutrición, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León. [4] Nájera Pérez, Elizabeth; Facultad de Salud Pública y Nutrición, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León.

INTRODUCTION. In last years have been developed products that contain probiotics, especially Bifidobacterium gender. In México there are commercialized products that not always specify the species and / or strains that they contain. **OBJECTIVE** To assess the Bifidobacterium presence in probiotic foods and supplements, as well the species and subspecies of this probiotic, comparing the results set with information labels. **METODOLOGY** Dairy drinks were analyzed in powder and supplement that declare in his labels to contain Bifidobacterias. The crops isolated in agar MRS, they incubated 37 ° C for 48 hours in conditions of anaerobiosis. DNA was extracted by kit DNAzol and means extraction by