



Commissioner for Children and Young People  
Western Australia

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Attn: Food Standards Australia New Zealand

**Submission: Proposal P1050 - Pregnancy Warning Labels on Alcoholic Beverages**

I am writing to you to provide comment on Proposal P1050 – Pregnancy Warning Labels on Alcoholic Beverages. As Commissioner for Children and Young People in Western Australia, I have a statutory responsibility to monitor and review laws, policies, practices and services that affect the wellbeing of children and young people under the age of 18 in Western Australia. In undertaking these responsibilities I must give priority to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged for any reason. I must also have regard for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

I fully support the compulsory application of appropriate, consistent and wide-spread warning labels on alcoholic beverages about the risks of consuming alcohol during pregnancy. It is in the best interests of children and young people that alcoholic beverages include compulsory pregnancy warning labels as part of a comprehensive and coordinated approach to the prevention, identification and management of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Preventative initiatives such as the proposed pregnancy warning label represent a key component of the national efforts to address this wholly preventable disease. However, to significantly reduce alcohol abuse and the harm it causes children and young people, such measures must be implemented alongside a holistic suite of services to support change across the community and address the underlying reasons as to why people drink excessively.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission in relation to this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

COLIN PETTIT

Commissioner for Children and Young People WA

18 October 2019