

Food Surveillance Network

In 2003 ISC (Food Regulation Standing Committee Implementation Sub-Committee) agreed to the development of a Coordinated Food Survey Plan for the Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand as it was recognised that many issues relating to surveys were common to all jurisdictions and there were significant advantages in implementing agreed national survey priorities in a coordinated manner.

Advantages that were identified include:

- sharing of costs and more effective use of limited resources;
- more statistically robust studies;
- a higher level of scrutiny and peer review;
- collaboration of laboratory activities and methodologies across jurisdictions;
- less duplication of surveys and related activities;
- promotion of greater information sharing;
- better and more cohesive risk management and communication

The Overall Strategic Goal of the Coordinated Food Survey Plan is:

To achieve collective and strategic implementation of food surveys through the coordination and integration of testing and inspection activities

The Coordinated Food Survey Plan is overseen by the Food Surveillance Network which is a technical forum chaired by FSANZ that allows food regulatory jurisdictions to plan and implement activities relating to food surveillance through a series of workshops and teleconferences.

National survey priorities are agreed on and the outcomes of surveillance activities are published in the FSANZ Food Surveillance Newsletter, which is a quarterly publication and available on the FSANZ website.

Examples of surveys undertaken by the Food Surveillance Network as part of the Coordinated Food Survey Plan include:

- 2007 National Food Handling Survey
- Prevalence of Salmonella and Campylobacter along the poultry meat chain
- Australian Total Diet Studies

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