



**National Council of  
Women of New Zealand**  
Te Kaunihera  
Wahine O Aotearoa

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**Submission to the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA)  
on the Fortification of the Food Supply with Vitamins and Minerals**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 42 nationally organised societies. It has 33 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of those societies and some 150 other societies as well as individual members.

The Consumer Affairs Standing Committee of the National Council of Women of New Zealand thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the above draft policy guidelines for the fortification of the food supply with vitamins and minerals. NCWNZ has long maintained an active interest in food-related matters, has been involved in a large number of NZFSA discussions and has made a number of submissions regarding food additives and labelling.

NCWNZ has considered the questions presented for consideration and replies accordingly.

1. The key issues in relation to mandatory fortification are public health and safety
2. Food should or should not be able to be mandatorily fortified with vitamins and minerals when there is any proven risk to public health or safety.
3. NCWNZ wishes to make no comment on the proposed High Order Principles for mandatory fortification.
4. Monitoring of the process must be maintained.
5. Labelling to show the presence of additives of any type should be compulsory.
6. Hopefully public health will improve with safe, monitored, fortification of food.
7. The key issue for consideration in relation to voluntary fortification of food with minerals and vitamins is improvement in health of all age groups of New Zealanders.
8. We have no comment to make on the proposed High Order Principles for voluntary fortification.
9. NCWNZ endorses the Specific Principles for voluntary fortification.
10. Foods should and/or should not be able to be fortified with vitamins or minerals if there is any risk for consumers.
11. NCWNZ prefers Option 3 for the regulation of voluntary fortification of the food supply, i.e. fortification permitted whether there is reasonable certainty of minimal risk to public health.
12. The listing of any and all additives to food should be compulsory.
13. NCWNZ endorses the proposal for voluntary fortification of food with vitamins and minerals.

NCWNZ thanks you for the opportunity to comment on this discussion document. This organisation has specific interests in the health and welfare of women and children in New Zealand, and shares your concerns for the food-related health problems of many New Zealanders.

Beryl Anderson  
**National President**

Eileen Imlach  
**Convener, Consumer Affairs Standing Committee**

