

Establish food allergen information resource bureau (Mar 05)

Project Brief: T Lewis

Number: **AF-P2**

Project description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a comprehensive information resource bureau of food allergen and allergen risk management knowledge in Australia – one year pilot project 	
Project justification:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian & New Zealand industry has highlighted the need for food allergen information to be centralised, managed and made more readily accessible for all stakeholders. There is an ongoing need for monitoring and sourcing international information and progress on food allergy issues to remain updated on current trends and developments. There is an opportunity for this service to be conducted efficiently and effectively through the Australian Food Safety Centre of Excellence. The information would be freely accessible via the Centre's website and project officer. Establishment of a dedicated service for the collation and dissemination of information on food allergies and food allergen risk management activities will assist food businesses and other key stakeholders and supports the BBP by minimising costs. 	
Deliverables & Success Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to establish an effective mechanism for collating and disseminating relevant information on food allergies and food allergen risk management in Australia and New Zealand by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining what information is required by industry; Determining where and how this information will be collated, managed and catalogued Determining how food allergy information, research, trends and developments will be monitored and collated on an ongoing basis Determining an appropriate communication strategy for this information; Employing a dedicated project officer to undertake this activity. We need to obtain a commitment to jointly funding such a system by the membership of the AFGC and by the Food Safety Centre of Excellence by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrating the potential value of such a scheme To do this we need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A working group of S&T Committee and Food Safety Centre; Agreement from AFGC and the Food Safety Centre 	
Key Activities/ Milestones	<i>Milestone</i>	<i>By when</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project scope and funding model agreed Bureau Manager engaged Pre-launch Bureau activities Bureau Launched Web site launched Project review consultant appointed Project review completed Project status decided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sep 04 ✓ Mar 05 ✓ Mar 05 onwards ✓ Apr 05 Apr 05 Sep 05 Oct 05 Nov 05
Key team members:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allergen Forum Chair; Food Safety Centre representative; Bureau Manager Food industry and key stakeholder contacts 	
Resource requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management contract \$53,750 Operating – \$15,000 Literature, electronic databases and internet access Travel – \$5,000 Consultant – \$5,000 UTAS infrastructure – TBA (under negotiation) Food Safety Centre representative (Tom Lewis – 5%) AFGC (5%), teleconferencing (2 hours x 5) with working group. 	
Risks:	<p>What could go wrong:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide relevant information in a readily accessible form will increase industry frustration and not reduce related costs. <p>We will minimise risks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulting widely Conducting a comprehensive project review towards the end of the first year of operation <p>If we don't do the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing difficulty in accessing relevant information will remain Industry frustration with fragmented and multiple sources of information will remain There will be no centralised depository of information Supplier knowledge regarding allergen risks will remain low Risk management strategies may be compromised Other Allergen Forum projects will have less support 	