

**From:** [JAYASEKARA, Nobheetha](#)  
**To:** [Berven, Leise](#)  
**Cc:** [Webb, Trevor](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed SNAG Teleconference [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]  
**Date:** Monday, 3 July 2017 10:15:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [image005.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image001.jpg](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Dear Leise,

Regarding Maxine's email and considering the statement:

"FSANZ has reviewed the available information and concluded it does not contain any new evidence to suggest these products pose a risk to infant health and safety.

It implies that FSANZ has information to support that the nanoparticles were not intentionally added and the concentration of nanoparticles in the samples were negligible. Also, these nanoparticles are expected to dissolve when mixing with water at a certain temperature. Then there is no buccal exposure to babies. Nanoparticles at low concentrations would dissolve in the stomach.

If you have information to support the above statement (responses to questions from SNAG members), I have no objection to the statement: This conclusion is supported by experts from our [Scientific Nanotechnology Advisory Group](#)".

Thanks for organising meetings with members again. It is good to get consent from members prior to publishing something as their advice. NICNAS had to do the same when we had the Nanotechnology Advisory group.

Cheers

**From:** Maxine McCall [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, 2 July 2017 11:55 PM

**To:** Berven, Leise

**Cc:** Jan.Herrmann@[REDACTED]; Michael Roberts; brian.priestly@[REDACTED]; JAYASEKARA, Nobheetha; S.Loveday [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Proposed SNAG Teleconference [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Leise and members of the SNAG,

Leise, please will you forward this email to relevant FSANZ people?

I note that the report commissioned by Friends of the Earth on nanoparticles in infant milk formula was in the news today (Sunday July 2).

I'm writing to you all after reading FSANZ's response here:

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/consumer/foodtech/nanotech/Pages/Nanoparticles-and-infant-formula.aspx>

I'm particularly concerned with the second sentence in this direct quote from FSANZ's web site: "FSANZ has reviewed the available information and concluded it does not contain any new evidence to suggest these products pose a risk to infant health and safety. This conclusion is supported by experts from our [Scientific Nanotechnology Advisory Group](#)".

At the SNAG teleconference on 31 May where the report was discussed, we were specifically asked to comment on:

- (i) methodology used in the study
- (ii) veracity of the findings.

My notes (and recollection) from that meeting were that we reported the methodology used was sound; the identified nanoparticles were present in the samples; we could not determine the concentration of the nanoparticles in the samples from the information before us. I remember Brian saying it would be good to get Mike's opinion on the safety

aspects, and Leise was going to follow up on that (as Mike couldn't attend the teleconference). But we didn't really discuss whether the products posed "a risk to infant health and safety".

So I object to the statement "This conclusion is supported by experts from our Scientific Nanotechnology Advisory Group". In my opinion, it misrepresents what we were asked to comment on at the teleconference of 31 May.

Do other members of the SNAG agree with me? If so, do you support my request that the statement be removed from the web site?

Kind regards,

Maxine

On Tue, May 23, 2017 at 12:30 PM, Berven, Leise

<[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear members of the Scientific Nanotechnology Advisory Group,  
I am writing to ask if you would be available for a short (30 minutes) teleconference in the next week or so.

FSANZ has received a media enquiry from the ABC asking for a response to a study provided to them from the Friends of the Earth. The study indicates the presence of nanoparticles in Australian infant formula. The study details were provided to us in the form of a PowerPoint prepared for the Friends of the Earth. It is similar to some work done by the same researchers last year on US samples of infant formula. See:

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/consumer/foodtech/Pages/Nanoparticles-and-infant-formula.aspx>

We would like to convene this teleconference to ask you to comment on the methodology used in the study and on the veracity of the findings, based on the information provided to us. I'll forward the PowerPoint to you once we finalise the arrangements for the T/C.

I can propose the following times for the teleconference. If neither of these is suitable for the majority of the members, I can look into the following week to hold the T/C.

- 3 pm on Tue, 30 May
- 2 pm on Wed, 31 May

I would be grateful if you could let me know your availability for the proposed teleconference on these dates. I'm happy for you to give me a call if that is easier.

Kind regards, Leise

**Leise Berven, PhD**

Senior Scientist & Project Manager - Nanotechnology  
Scientific Strategy, International and Surveillance



[REDACTED]

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