



Department of Health

50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone: 1300 650 172
GPO Box 4057
Melbourne Victoria 3001
www.health.vic.gov.au
DX 210081

BAC-CO-26512

Herschel Baker
hmbaker1938@hotmail.com

Dear Mr Baker

Thank you for your email of 21 April 2022 addressed to the Minister for Health, the Hon Martin Foley MP regarding concerns about a perceived push to relax legislation regarding hemp products. The Minister has referred your email to me for my consideration and response.

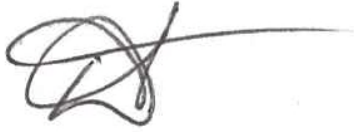
I understand that in a previous response to your correspondence in June 2019, we provided you with details of the use of low delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) hemp as food. The requirements of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) are unchanged for these foods. That is, the Code allows only hulled hemp seeds, oils or powders derived from hemp seed, and goods and beverages prepared from hemp seeds, to be sold as food in Australia and New Zealand and prescribes maximum levels of THC and cannabidiol in foods, at levels which Food Standards Australia New Zealand considers will not produce psychoactive effects in consumers even if consumed regularly or in large quantities.

The survey of permitted low THC-hemp based foods referred to in that earlier correspondence is in its final stages, and it is anticipated that any results of this survey would be communicated through Food Standards Australia New Zealand's website at <https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/science/surveillance/Pages/default.aspx>. It would not be appropriate for Victoria to provide details on this survey, which spans jurisdictions, directly to Drug Free Australia, so I recommend you continue to monitor this page for food related analysis of low THC foods.

Regarding the papers included in your email, the draft risk assessment provided to Health Canada was included in your previous correspondence. As was noted in the response to the previous correspondence, since that draft was made available in 1999 considerable research has been undertaken on the impact of these foods, and that low THC hemp foods have been approved in many European countries, Canada, and in parts of the United States. The other papers you provided range from methodological assessments to (US) Food and Drug Administration complaints to manufacturers of therapeutic cannabidiol products and, as such, they do not have strong relevance to low THC foods in Australia. However, I thank you for drawing them to my attention.

I trust this information has been of assistance and thank you again for taking the time to write the Minister about this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr Danny Csutoros
Acting Deputy Chief Health Officer (Environment)
Public Health Division

22 / 04 / 2022