



THE VITAL[®] PROGRAM

AN EXAMPLE OF ALLERGEN
THRESHOLDS IN ALLERGEN
MANAGEMENT



The Allergen Bureau Ltd ACN 162 786 389



INFORMING THE FOOD INDUSTRY

Presented By: **Georgina Christensen**

THE VITAL[®] PROGRAM

AN EXAMPLE OF ALLERGEN THRESHOLDS IN ALLERGEN MANAGEMENT

Overview

- The Allergen Bureau
- Intentionally & Unintentionally added Allergens
- Introduction to Australian consumers
- Why was the VITAL Program developed?
- The VITAL Program
- Resources





THE ALLERGEN BUREAU

THE ALLERGEN BUREAU



- The Allergen Bureau is the **peak industry body** representing food industry allergen management in Australia and New Zealand
- The Allergen Bureau is a **membership based** organisation established to provide food industry with rapid responses to questions about allergen risk management in food ingredients and manufactured foods
- Established 2005, **pre-competitive**, **'not-for-profit'**, industry volunteer Board

Full Members



OUR VISION

The Allergen Bureau is a globally recognised and supported industry organisation promoting best practice **food industry allergen management, risk review** and **consistent labelling** to facilitate **informed consumer choice**





OUR MISSION

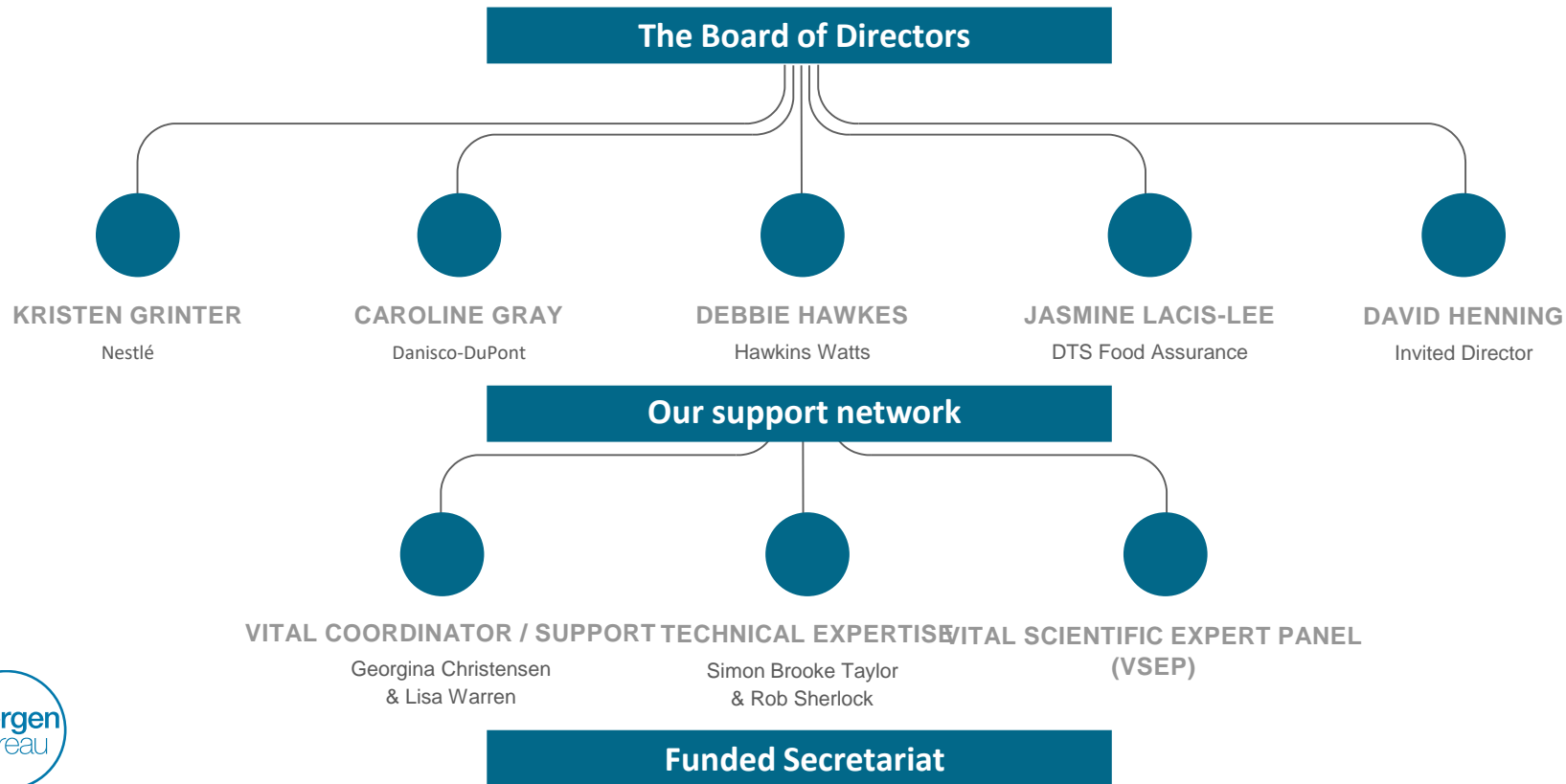
To facilitate a globally accepted, consistent, science-based approach to food allergen risk assessment, management and communication that:

- guides **industry** best practice
- assists allergen sensitive **consumers** to make informed choices based on label information



ALLERGEN BUREAU MANAGEMENT

Allergen Bureau ('Not for Profit')

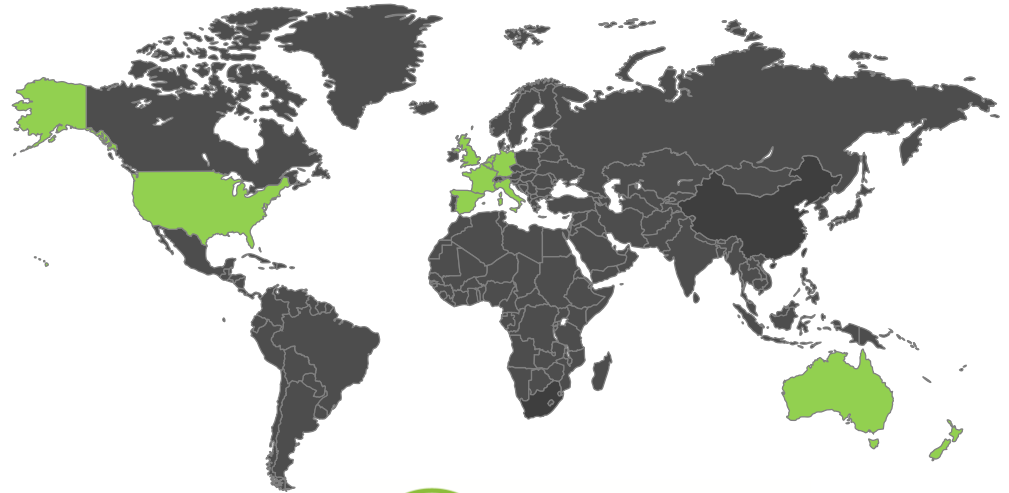


GROWING INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

Over 2500 registered organisations use the VITAL Program

TOP 10 VITAL Online website visitors

1. Australia (41%)
2. Netherlands
3. New Zealand
4. Germany
5. United Kingdom
6. France
7. Belgium
8. Spain
9. United States
10. Italy



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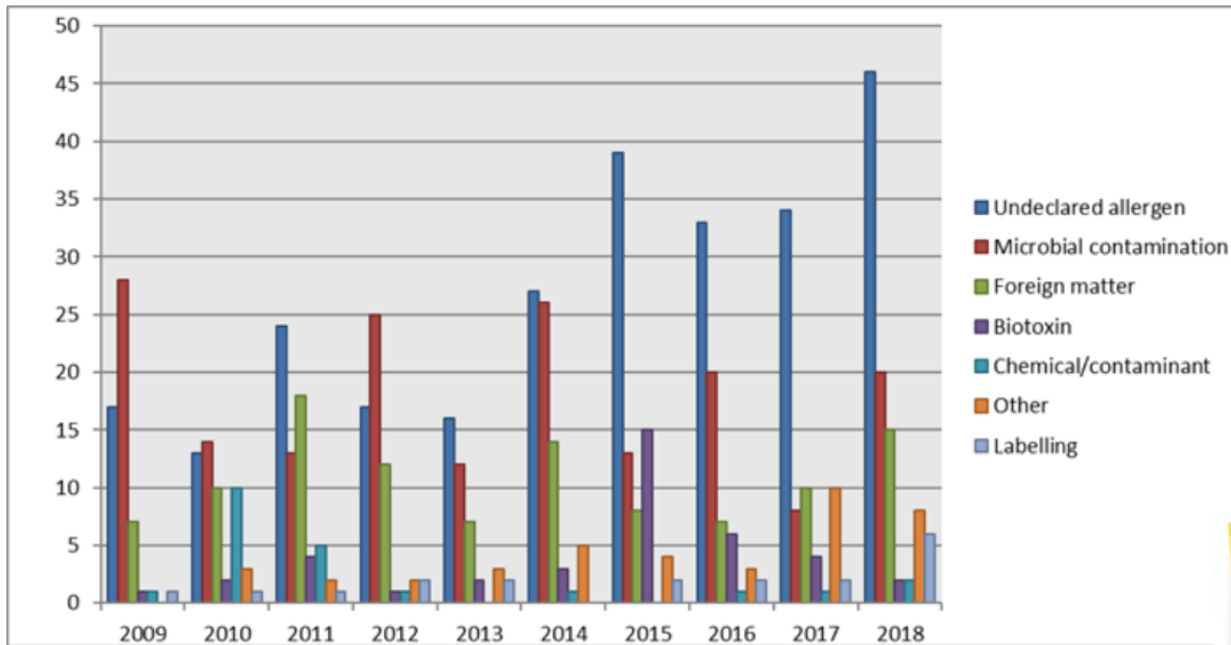
WHY SHOULD THE FOOD INDUSTRY MANAGE ALLERGENS?

WHY SHOULD THE FOOD INDUSTRY MANAGE FOOD ALLERGENS?

- protect allergic consumers
- food safety necessity
- consumers depend on food that is labelled correctly
- legal requirement for declaring food allergens
- costly to have non-compliance, allergen issues with consumers, recalls, withdrawals, re-labelling



FOOD RECALLS IN AUSTRALIA (2009 – 2018)



39% of recalls
in this period
are due to
undeclared
allergens



Case Study

RETAIL

Coconut drink importer fined over labelling after child's death

SYDNEY 2015



A Sydney food importer whose coconut drink has been linked to the death by anaphylactic reaction of a 10-year old boy from Melbourne has been fined \$18,000.

The company Narkena Pty Ltd from western Sydney had previously pleaded guilty to three charges relating to packaging and labelling of the drink called Greentime Natural Coconut imported from Taiwan.

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INTENTIONALLY & UNINTENTIONALLY ADDED ALLERGENS

INTENTIONALLY ADDED ALLERGENS

- intrinsic part of the ingredient materials for a product
- added to foods via ingredients, compound ingredients, additives & processing aids

Example:

A cake has ingredients Eggs and Milk.
Eggs & Milk are intentionally added allergens
in the cake.



UNINTENTIONALLY ADDED ALLERGENS

- a residue or other trace amount of an allergenic food that is unintentionally incorporated into another food
- present despite conditions of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)
- can occur at any point along the food chain from primary production, ingredients and through the manufacturing process



	Intentionally Added Allergens	Unintentionally Added Allergens
Also called....	ingredient, compound ingredient, additive, processing aid	Cross contact
Defined in legislation	Yes	No
Mandatory declaration	Yes Usually in the ingredient list	No - voluntary
Labelling declaration example	Ingredients: Rice, Egg , Carrots, Milk . Contains: Egg, Milk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •May be present: soy. •May contain: soy. •Made in a facility that also processes soy.
Thresholds applicable	No	Yes

HOW DO CROSS CONTACT ALLERGENS GET INTO FOOD?

Ingredients

- Shared ingredient processing
- Agricultural practices (shared harvesting, storage, transport)
- Complex supply chains

Processing

- Complex manufacturing sites
- Cleaning challenges (e.g. dry blend)

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INTRODUCTION TO AUSTRALIAN (AND OTHER WESTERN) CONSUMERS

FOOD ALLERGY IS COMMON

Rapid increase in food allergic disease in last 30 years in mainly Western countries

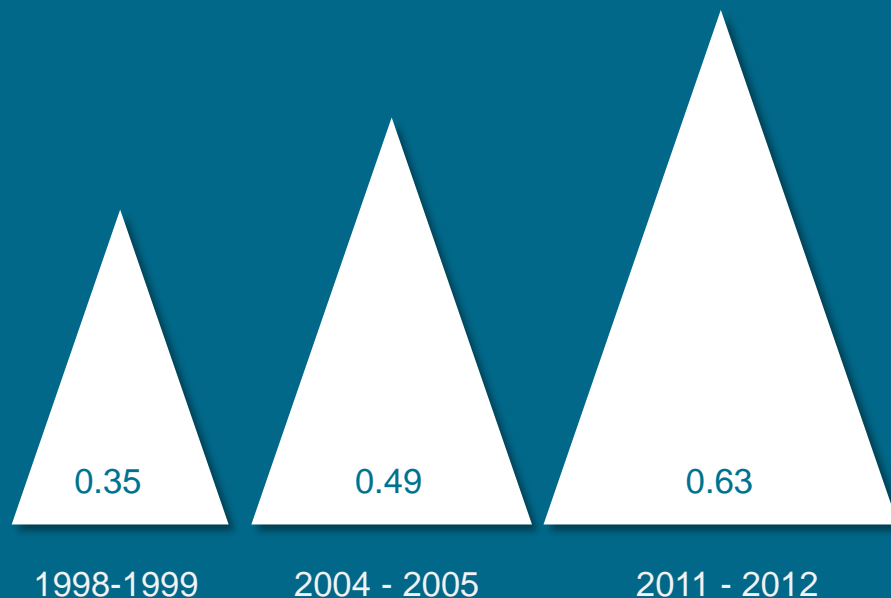
Food allergy affects*

- 10% infants (up to 12 months old)
- 4-8% children (up to 5 years)
- 2% adults (approx)



*ASCIA www.allergy.org.au

Food allergy rates are increasing in Australia and New Zealand



Mullins JACI 2015 Time trends in Australian hospital anaphylaxis admissions in 1998-1999 to 2011-2012.

AUSTRALIAN CONSUMERS:

Packaged food is as a large portion of the diet



China



Australia

WHY IS ACCURATE LABELLING IMPORTANT?

- Food allergic patients must avoid foods with the allergen to which they are sensitive
- Products must be labelled accurately
- Food allergic patients are managed by their doctor or specialist – doctors are confused too!
- Many people avoid certain foods for (perceived) health (e.g. Gluten)



PREDOMINANT FOOD ALLERGENS (WESTERN)

Children

- Peanut
- Tree nuts
- Soy
- Milk
- Eggs
- Wheat

Adults

- Peanuts
- Tree nuts
- Crustacea
(shrimp, crab,
lobster)
- Fish
- Sesame



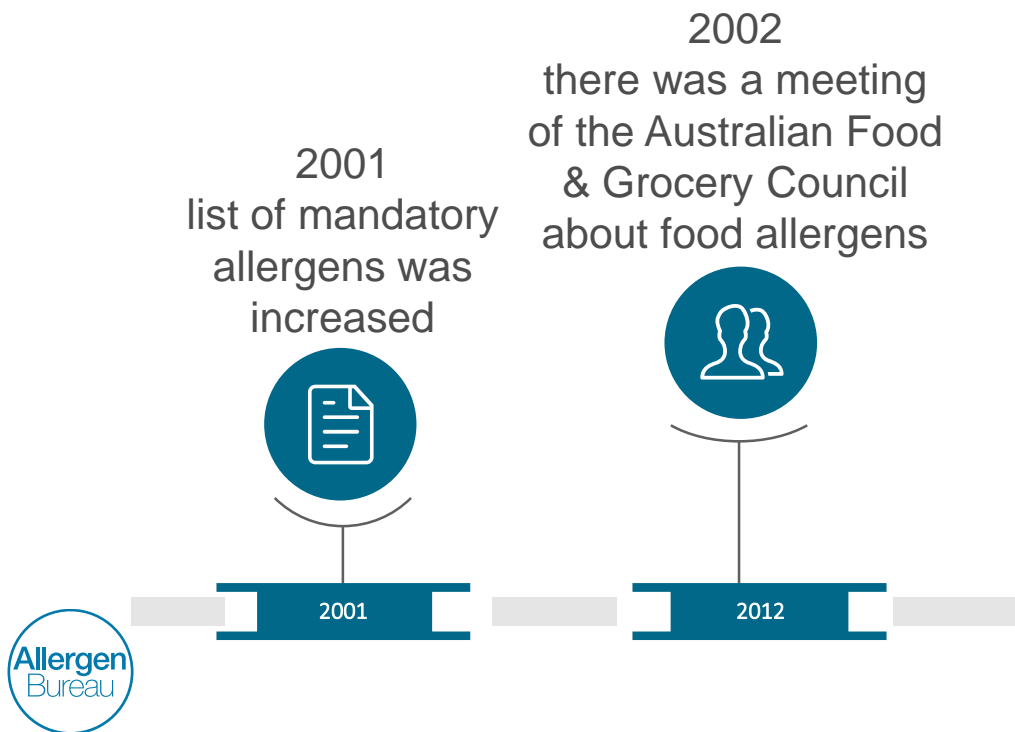
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WHY WAS THE VITAL PROGRAM DEVELOPED?

FOOD REGULATIONS SILENT ABOUT CROSS CONTACT ALLERGENS

- No information in Australia about how to label allergens which were present inadvertently – the Allergen Bureau counted 42 different statements
- Cross contact statements were applied to products with no consistency in wording or risk assessment
- Confusion for allergic consumers!
- Concern for food manufacturers!
- The industry needed a consistent way to identify, manage and label cross contact allergens

WHY WAS THE VITAL PROGRAM DEVELOPED?



- Australian food industry met and planned to research food allergens and make their research publically available
- From this collaborative, industry process, the first version of the VITAL Program, and the Allergen Bureau were formed.

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THE VITAL PROGRAM

VOLUNTARY INCIDENTAL TRACE ALLERGEN LABELLING



The VITAL
(Voluntary Incidental Trace Allergen Labelling)
Program is a standardised allergen risk
assessment process for food industry



Developed **by** industry **for** industry and
is adopted on a voluntary basis

WHAT IS THE VITAL PROGRAM?

The VITAL Program provides a consistent methodology for food industry to **assess the impact of allergen cross contact** and provide appropriate precautionary allergen labelling on their products



VITAL is managed by the
Allergen Bureau



THE VITAL PROGRAM

The VITAL Program can be used to assist food producers in presenting allergen advice accurately and consistently for allergic consumers using a **single simple standardised precautionary statement**



The VITAL precautionary statement is:
May be present: allergen x, allergen y.

VITAL PROGRAM OVERALL OBJECTIVE

*To ensure manufactured food is **safe to consume** for the vast majority of food allergic consumers by providing **consistent food labels** that declare the presence of allergens, due to documented, unavoidable and sporadic **cross contact** thus enabling allergic consumers and their carers to avoid purchasing foods that may present a personal risk.*

APPLYING THE VITAL PROGRAM DEMONSTRATES...

- your due diligence with regard to understanding the risk of cross contact allergens from all ingredients used and from the manufacturing process
- your commitment to consumers
- your commitment to consistent risk review and allergen labelling across industry



VITAL AND LEGAL PROTECTION

VITAL does not directly offer any legal protection

HOWEVER, the correct implementation of VITAL provides evidence that a company has used best practice in regard to managing allergens



It is the application of due diligence that allows a defence or at least mitigation in product liability actions

VITAL AND LEGAL PROTECTION

Including an allergen precautionary statement on the label **does not mean** that you no longer have to control that allergen



Allergen management procedures should be followed to eliminate (or when that is not possible reduce) the possibility allergen cross contact

THE VITAL PROGRAM TOOLS

- VITAL Procedure
- Decision Tree
- Interactive VITAL Action Level Grid
- VITAL Online (web-based calculator)
- VITAL training materials
- Guidance documents & FAQs



Q: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO START VITAL?

A: *An established and robust Allergen Management Plan*



A robust allergen management plan is a pre-requisite before considering implementing the VITAL Program



WHY DO ALLERGEN RISK ASSESSMENT?

Carrying out a VITAL risk assessment using the tools provided ensures a food company understands...

the allergen status
of its ingredients

impact of allergen
cross contact from
processing

the allergen
status of its
finished products



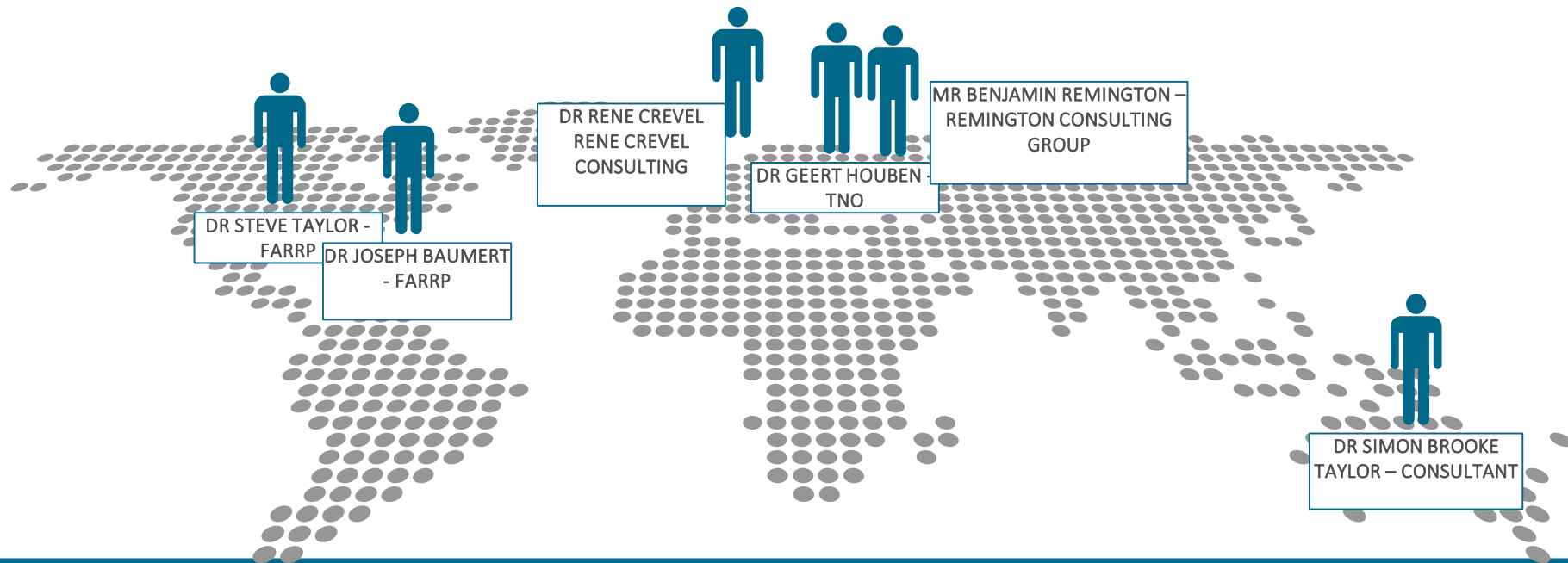
Allergen risk assessment contributes
towards due diligence

WHAT IS THE SCIENCE BEHIND VITAL?

The VITAL Program determines appropriate precautionary labelling based on risk by using Action Levels that are underpinned by **scientific evidence**



A collaboration of international food allergen experts established the science that underpins the VITAL Program



MEET THE VSEP PANEL

Dr Steve Taylor - Food Allergy Research & Resource Program (FARRP) (USA)

Dr Joseph Baumert (FARRP)

Dr Geert Houben - Program Manager Food Safety, Netherlands Org. for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) (NL)

Dr Rene Crevel (RENE CREVEL Consulting Ltd, formerly of Allergy & Immunology, Unilever) (UK))

Mr Benjamin Remington (REMINGTON CONSULTING GROUP B.V. & adjunct faculty member of FARRP, formerly of TNO) (NL)

Dr Simon Brooke Taylor (Food Safety & Risk Analysis Consultant, Allergen Bureau) (AUS)

VITAL 3.0 : SIGNIFICANT UPDATE IN 2019

VITAL 2.0

1

Increased data set from
1815 data points (2011) to
3417 data points (2019)

2

New statistical
modelling approach
used: Stacked Model
Averaging

3

More information www.allergenbureau.net/vital/vital-science/

VITAL 3.0 launches 24th
October 2019



Informing the food industry

Summary of the 2019
VITAL Scientific Expert Panel
Recommendations



VSEP

- over 3400 clinical data points were collated
- used statistical modelling called “Stacked Model Averaging” which incorporated 5 different statistical models to produce a single “averaged” distribution
- Reference Doses are set using ED01 – the Eliciting Dose of an allergen at which 1% of the allergic population would be likely to react

THE VITAL SCIENTIFIC EXPERT PANEL (VSEP)

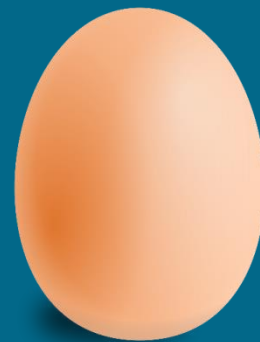


**World leaders in VSEP
Food Allergy Research**

REFERENCE DOSE

is the milligram protein level (total protein from an allergenic food) below which only the most sensitive (1%) of individuals in the allergic population are likely to experience an adverse reaction.

If reactions to (unlabelled) allergens do occur from exposure below the Reference Dose they will be mild and transient, requiring no emergency medical intervention.



Approx. 8900mg
protein in a 70g
raw whole egg

Greater than 0.2
mg of egg protein
may trigger an
allergic reaction



VITAL 3.0 REFERENCE DOSES

Cereals containing gluten *	0.7	Soy	0.5
Barley	0.7	Tree nuts (cashew, pistachio)	0.05
Rye	0.7	Cashew	0.05
Oats	0.7	Pistachio	0.05
Spelt	0.7	Tree nuts (walnut, pecan)	0.03
Wheat	0.7	Walnut	0.03
Crustacea	25	Pecan	0.03
Egg	0.2	Tree nuts	0.1
Fish	1.3	(almond, Brazil nuts, hazelnuts, Macadamia nuts, pine nuts)	
Lupin	2.6	Almonds	0.1
Milk	0.2	Brazil nuts	0.1
Peanut	0.2	Hazelnuts	0.1
Mollusc	None set	Macadamia nuts	0.1
Sesame	0.1	Pine nuts	0.1

*(Action Level transition maximum point is 20ppm)

REFERENCE DOSE

Only applicable for the allergens within the VITAL Action Level Grid

- no Reference Dose for mollusc

Not applicable for people who have heightened sensitivity to food allergens

- foods for infants
- food for special medical purposes



VALIDATING THE REFERENCE DOSES

[J Allergy Clin Immunol](#). 2017 May;139(5):1583-1590. doi: 10.1016/j.jaci.2017.01.030. Epub 2017 Feb 24.

Peanut Allergen Threshold Study (PATS): Novel single-dose oral food challenge study to validate eliciting doses in children with peanut allergy.

[Hourihane JO¹](#), [Allen KJ²](#), [Shreffler WG³](#), [Dunngalvin G⁴](#), [Nordlee JA⁵](#), [Zurzolo GA⁶](#), [Dunngalvin A⁴](#), [Gurrin LC⁷](#), [Baumert JL⁵](#), [Taylor SL⁵](#).

- 378 people aged 1-18yrs participated
- they ate **1.5mg peanut protein** = 6mg whole peanut = 1/100th of a peanut kernel = ED05
- Reference Dose for peanut in the VITAL Program is 0.2 mg
So, in this study, the peanut-allergic participants were fed an amount of peanut protein that is more than **7 times greater** than the Reference Dose.



378 people aged
1-18yrs participated

VALIDATING THE REFERENCE DOSES

- 8 (2.1%) people met the criteria of an objective and likely allergic reaction. (The reactions were mild.) This is less than the predicted 5%
- These results suggest that the use of 0.2mg peanut protein in the VITAL Program is conservative
- Studies repeating this experiment & validation studies for other allergens are planned & are helpful to support the VITAL Program



8 people met the criteria of an objective and likely allergic reaction.

ACTION LEVELS

Are the concentrations (of protein) which define the labelling outcomes from a cross contact allergen



Action Level transition point* (ppm) =

$$\left[\text{Reference Dose (mg)} \times \frac{1000}{\text{Reference Amount (g)}} \right]$$

ACTION LEVELS GUIDE

LABELLING RECOMMENDATIONS

Action Level 1

a low concentration of allergen protein and a low chance of adverse reaction.

No precautionary statement is required.

Action Level 2

a significant concentration of allergen protein and a significant chance of adverse reaction.

A precautionary statement is required.

EXAMPLE –

CALCULATING ACTION LEVELS FOR PRODUCT WITH PEANUT CROSS CONTACT

Peanut Reference Dose = 0.2 mg protein

5g Reference Amount or
Serving Size:

(Transition = $0.2 \times 1000/5$
= 40ppm)

Action Level 1: <40ppm

Action Level 2: ≥40ppm

50g Reference Amount or
Serving Size:

(Transition = $0.2 \times 1000/5 =$
4ppm)

Action Level 1 : <4ppm

Action Level 2 : ≥4 ppm

REFERENCE AMOUNT

The Reference Amount is used to calculate the quantity of cross contact allergen a person would consume in a typical eating occasion.

Can significantly affect Action Levels!



What about foods or ingredients that have no specific Reference Amount?



VITAL ACTION LEVEL GRID

A table stating the Action Level transition points (in ppm total protein) of each allergen for a specific product



VITAL Action Level Grid Report

Substances	Reference Dose(mg)	Action Level (ppm) where reference amount/serving size is 80g	
		Action Level 1	Action Level 2
Cereals containing gluten (Total)	0.7	< 8.75 ppm	≥ 8.75 ppm
Barley	0.7	< 8.75 ppm	≥ 8.75 ppm
Oats	0.7	< 8.75 ppm	≥ 8.75 ppm
Rye	0.7	< 8.75 ppm	≥ 8.75 ppm
Spelt	0.7	< 8.75 ppm	≥ 8.75 ppm
Wheat	0.7	< 8.75 ppm	≥ 8.75 ppm
Crustacea	25	< 312.5 ppm	≥ 312.5 ppm
Eggs	0.2	< 2.5 ppm	≥ 2.5 ppm
Fish	1.3	< 16.25 ppm	≥ 16.25 ppm
Lupin	2.6	< 32.5 ppm	≥ 32.5 ppm
Milk	0.2	< 2.5 ppm	≥ 2.5 ppm



Source: VITAL Online

VITAL ACTION LEVEL GRID

Reference Dose

Action Level 1

Action Level 2

- The Action Level Grid must be calculated for each individual product
- The calculation uses the Reference Amount and the allergen's Reference Dose

VITAL Action Level Grid Report

Substances	Reference Dose(mg)	Action Level (ppm) where reference amount/serving size is 80g	
		Action Level 1	Action Level 2
Cereals containing gluten (Total)	0.7	< 8.75 ppm	≥ 8.75 ppm
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Rye	0.7	< 8.75 ppm	≥ 8.75 ppm
Spelt	0.7	< 8.75 ppm	≥ 8.75 ppm
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Crustacea	25	< 312.5 ppm	≥ 312.5 ppm
Eggs	0.2	< 2.5 ppm	≥ 2.5 ppm
Fish	1.3	< 16.25 ppm	≥ 16.25 ppm
Lupin	2.6	< 32.5 ppm	≥ 32.5 ppm
Milk	0.2	< 2.5 ppm	≥ 2.5 ppm
Molluscs			
Peanut	0.2	< 2.5 ppm	≥ 2.5 ppm
Sesame	0.1	< 1.25 ppm	≥ 1.25 ppm
Soy	0.5	< 6.25 ppm	≥ 6.25 ppm
Tree nuts (Cashews & Pistachios) (Total)	0.05	< 0.62 ppm	≥ 0.62 ppm
Pistachio nuts	0.05	< 0.62 ppm	≥ 0.62 ppm
Cashews	0.05	< 0.62 ppm	≥ 0.62 ppm
Tree nuts (Walnut & Pecans) (Total)	0.03	< 0.38 ppm	≥ 0.38 ppm
Walnuts	0.03	< 0.38 ppm	≥ 0.38 ppm
Pecans	0.03	< 0.38 ppm	≥ 0.38 ppm
Tree nuts (Almond, Brazil nuts, Hazelnuts, Macadamia nuts, Pine nuts) (Total)	0.1	< 1.25 ppm	≥ 1.25 ppm
Almonds	0.1	< 1.25 ppm	≥ 1.25 ppm
Brazil nuts	0.1	< 1.25 ppm	≥ 1.25 ppm
Hazelnuts	0.1	< 1.25 ppm	≥ 1.25 ppm
Macadamia nuts	0.1	< 1.25 ppm	≥ 1.25 ppm
Pine nuts	0.1	< 1.25 ppm	≥ 1.25 ppm

THE VITAL PROGRAM: EXAMPLE

- Recipe & Raw Material Allergen Status Flourless Chocolate Cake
- Yield 85% (Water loss is 15%)
- Serving size is 120g

			Allergen Status	
Reference	Raw Material	Ingoing %	Intentional	Cross Contact
RM1	Liquid whole egg	30	Egg	
RM2	Cooking fat	30		Milk (3ppm), fish (80ppm)
RM3	Sugar	30	None declared	
RM4	Dark compound chocolate	10	Soy	Peanut pieces (particulate)

Processing Cross Contact
Hang-up is 2kg
Batch size exposed to hang-up is 200kg

Raw Vegan Cake contains whole sesame seeds
Honey Almond Cake contains almond flour (40% almond in cake, 20.4% protein in almond)

Step 1: Setup

Edit recipe

Recipe name *

IN_Flourless Chocolate Cake

Recipe code *



Cake 1

Reference Amount *



120

g

☐ Ingredient intended for further processing

Reference Amount not applicable

E.g. Finished Product Serving Size.

Reference Amount assumptions *



120g is one slice

Legislation name

Australia and New Zealand

Enter in the yield

Yield

Water may be lost during processing (e.g baking); water may be gained during processing (e.g. steam injection) or by a consumer during preparation.

Yield * 

Hydration or dehydration. 100% meaning no water loss or gain, 110% meaning a 10% increase in mass, 90% meaning a 10% decrease in mass.

Assumptions 

There is a 15% loss of moisture during a baking step of 35minutes at 180°C.
No other water loss or gain during processing.

Record any relevant information about (de)hydration calculations for this product.

BACK

NEXT STEP

Add ingredients to the recipe

Recipe: Flourless Chocolate Cake - Cake1

+ ADD INGREDIENTS

0% of ingredients entered

There are currently no ingredients added to this recipe.

Add some by using the **+ ADD INGREDIENTS** button on the left.

Step 1: Setup



Step 2: Yield



Step 3: Ingredients

Step 4: Processing

Step 5: Download

SAVE AND CONTINUE

Enter the allergen information for RM4

Add a new ingredient

Name *

Dark Compound Chocolate

Reference code *

RM4

CANCEL

ADD

☒ Peanut

☐ Intentionally added

Cross contact allergen

☒ Particulate

☐ Readily dispersible form

☐ Molluscs

☐ Sesame

☒ Soy

☒ Intentionally added

Cross contact allergen

☐ Particulate

☐ Readily dispersible form

Assumptions *

i

Supplier specification ABCDEF ddmmyy|

+ ADD INGREDIENTS

Liquid Whole Egg
RM1
0%

Cooking Fat
RM2
0%

Sugar
RM3
0%

Dark compound chocolate
RM4
0%

0% of ingredients entered

Liquid Whole Egg
RM1

EDIT REMOVE

Ingredient as a percentage of recipe *

%

Allergens & their products

+ Cereals containing gluten

+ Tree nuts (Cashews & Pistachios)

+ Tree nuts (Walnut & Pecans)

+ Tree nuts (Almond, Brazil nuts, Hazelnuts, Macadamia nuts, Pine nuts)

☐ Crustacea

☒ Eggs

☒ Intentionally added

Liquid Whole Egg

RM2

0%

RM3

0%

RM4

0%

0% of ingredients entered

EDIT

REMOVE

Ingredient as a percentage of recipe *

96

Allergens & their products

+

Cereals containing gluten

+

Tree nuts (Cashews & Pistachios)

Tree nuts (Walnut & Pecans)

Tree nuts (Almond, Brazil nuts, Hazelnuts, Macadamia nuts, Pine nuts)

Crustacea

☒

Eggs

Intentionally added

Add cross contact allergens due to processing

Recipe: Flourless Chocolate Cake - Cake1

EXIT RECIPE EDITING ↗

+ ADD CROSS CONTACT

There are currently no processing cross contacts added to this recipe.

Add processing cross contacts by using the buttons on the left.

Or

If this recipe has no cross contacts or processing profiles:

1. Provide your processing assumptions here

2. Confirm that there are no processing cross contacts.

Processing assumptions *

OUTCOME SUMMARY

Step 1: Setup ✓

Step 2: Yield ✓

Step 3: Ingredients ✓

Step 4: Processing


Step 5: Report

SAVE AND CONTINUE

Help and Support

Select “Create New”


[← BACK TO CROSS CONTACTS](#)

Add cross contacts 

[CREATE NEW](#)

Cross contacts you've added

Processing Profiles

 filter processing profiles by name or reference code

Cake Process Line
CPL1

[+ ADD](#)

You haven't added any cross contacts yet

[FINISH](#)

+ ADD CROSS CONTACT

Processing assumptions

Honey Almond Cake

Raw Vegan Cake

Honey Almond Cake

RENAME REMOVE

Cross contact allergens due to processing

+ Cereals containing gluten

+ Tree nuts (Cashews & Pistachios)

+ Tree nuts (Walnut & Pecans)

+ Tree nuts (Almond, Brazil nuts, Hazelnuts, Macadamia nuts, Pine nuts)

Almonds

Particulate

Readily dispersible form

Hang up quantity *

2000

g

% Almonds or Almonds component in hang up

40

%

% protein in Almonds or Almonds component *

20.4

%

Amount of Protein in Hang Up

165200

mg

Batch size exposed to hang up *

200

kg

Protein from this cross contact source

818

ppm

Cumulative amount

980

ppm

Action Level Transition Point

0.85

ppm

Labelling outcome

Action Level 2

Raw Vegan Cake

RENAME REMOVE

Cross contact allergens due to processing

+ Cereals containing gluten

+ Tree nuts (Cashews & Pistachios)

+ Tree nuts (Walnut & Pecans)

+ Tree nuts (Almond, Brazil nuts, Hazelnuts, Macadamia nuts, Pine nuts)

Crustacea

Eggs

Fish

Lupin

Milk

Molluscs

Peanut

Sesame

Particulate

Readily dispersible form

Table 1: Summary of labelling outcomes**Reference Amount information****Reference Amount:** 120g**Assumptions:** 120g is one slice

Substances	Reference Dose (mg)	Action Level 1	Action Level 2	Cross contact amount		Labelling outcome
				Particulate	Readily dispersible (ppm)	
Eggs	0.2	< 1.67 ppm	≥ 1.67 ppm			Intentionally added
Fish	1.3	< 10.83 ppm	≥ 10.83 ppm		28.235294	Action Level 2
Milk	0.2	< 1.67 ppm	≥ 1.67 ppm		1.058824	Action Level 1
Peanut	0.2	< 1.67 ppm	≥ 1.67 ppm	Yes		Action Level 2
Sesame	0.1	< 0.83 ppm	≥ 0.83 ppm	Yes		Action Level 2
Soy	0.5	< 4.17 ppm	≥ 4.17 ppm			Intentionally added

EXAMPLE OF ALLERGEN LABELLING USING VITAL

Ingredient Statement



Water, potato, carrots, celery, brown rice, **oats**, **Peanut** oil, yeast extract (**barley**).

Allergen Summary Statement



Contains cereals containing gluten, peanut.

The VITAL
Precautionary Statement



May be present: wheat.

VITAL PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENT

CLEAR

ACCURATE

CONSISTENT

COMMUNICATION

- promotes consistency in allergen labelling
- standardised format
- clear, accurate and relevant
- assists in making safer food choices

THE VITAL PROGRAM IS NOT:

- For **INTENTIONALLY** added allergens
- For infants and ‘foods for special medical purposes’ who have heightened sensitivity
- For “allergen-free” claims
- To justify poor allergen management practices (allergens must be controlled, even if they are declared in a precautionary allergen label)
- A government program
- Designed to be used with analytical analysis (it is designed to be used with physical risk assessment)



THE VITAL PROGRAM IS:

- Helpful to determine when a precautionary allergen label should be used
e.g. May be present: allergen x, allergen y
- A precautionary allergen label should only be used when the cross contact allergen cannot be eliminated.
- When a precautionary allergen label is used then:
 - The allergen should be reduced and controlled at the lowest level practicable
 - The allergen should continue to be controlled

WHAT ABOUT ALLERGEN TESTING?

- If you use allergen testing, a laboratory specialising in allergen testing should be used
- Limitations of allergen testing are many
E.g. only tests a tiny sample (one gram)
- When would you use allergen testing – validation of an assumption in your allergen management plan
For example: to check cleaning of equipment between different products



A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consisting of two parallel diagonal lines. The outer line is light gray, and the inner line is a darker gray, creating a striped effect.

RESOURCES

INTRODUCING THE VITAL STANDARD

- An auditable VITAL Scheme under ISO 17065
- Designed as an extra module for GFSI-recognised certified sites with HACCP based Allergen Management Programs
- VITAL certification is product specific
- Products certified under the VITAL Standard can use a VITAL logo
- Similar but not identical to the VITAL Program
- For more information, see allergenbureau.net



Informing the food industry

VITAL® Standard

Version 1.0



October 2019

ALLERGEN RISK REVIEW WEBSITE



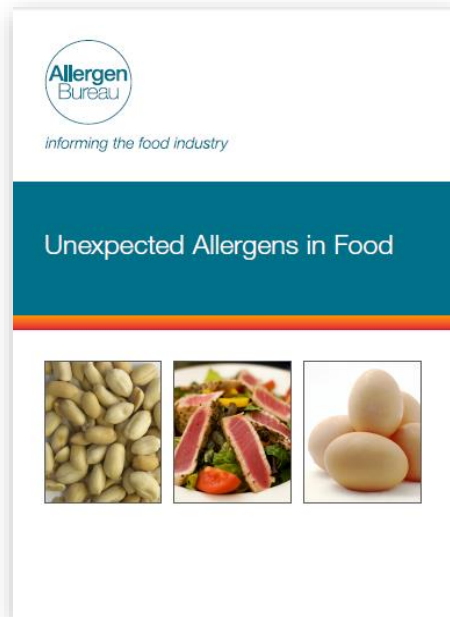
- detailed information and guidance for conducting each aspect of allergen risk review
- includes each aspect that an allergen risk review should address
- use 'Factory Map' to navigate
- updated regularly

www.allergenbureau.net/risk-review/

ALLERGEN BUREAU RESOURCES

The **Unexpected Allergens in Food** is a useful resource to identify allergens

Beta-carotene	Does it contain tocopherols and what are they derived from (e.g. soy). Is it microencapsulated? If so, is the capsule derived from fish ?
Beta-galactosidase	Does it contain milk ?
Beverage Whitener	Does it contain wheat , maize, casein etc?
Bran	Does it contain wheat , oats , rye , barley , spelt ?
Breadcrumbs	Do they contain sesame seeds?
Brine	Check for allergens (e.g. casein – milk protein).



FURTHER ENGAGEMENT AND RESOURCES

The Allergen Bureau

- Visit the website www.allergenbureau.net
- Subscribe to our free monthly Allergen Bureau eNews www.allergenbureau.net/news/
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