

# **AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE**

## **National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2008 activities**

### **NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: Nutrition**

**CHAIR: Professor Jennie Brand-Miller**

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2008

**Please complete and return this form by 12 December 2008.**

NOTE: This report will be published on the Academy of Science website at [www.science.org.au/natcoms](http://www.science.org.au/natcoms)

### **MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MET ON:

23 September 2008 (face to face) in Canberra  
1 December 2008 (face to face) in Adelaide

Numerous email exchanges took place throughout the year

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2009 (include date and place, if possible):

Teleconference: mid February 2009  
Face to face: May 2009  
Teleconference: Sept 2009  
Face to face: 9 Dec 2009 (Newcastle)

### **MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU**

IN 2008 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

**None**

IN 2009 THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

**19<sup>th</sup> International Union of Nutrition Sciences Congress in Bangkok, Oct 6-9 2009**

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONGRESS will be held

**20<sup>th</sup> IUNS Congress in 2013 in Spain**

I RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THE FOLLOWING VOTING AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION: (include title, name, address, telephone, email and fax number)

**Professor Jennie Brand-Miller, Institute of Obesity, Nutrition and Exercise, The University of Sydney, Tel: 02 9351 3759, FAX: 02 9351 6022**

#### **AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES**

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2008 WERE:

(include all appointed/elected memberships of subsidiary bodies, standing committees, commissions etc. as well as appointments to Bureau/Executive positions in the governing body).

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
<b>Mark Wahlqvist</b>	<b>IUNS</b>	<b>Immediate Past President</b>	<b>4 y</b>

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2009:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
<b>None planned at this stage</b>			

**ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2008 Business Plan. 2008 Business plans can be viewed at [www.science.org.au/natcoms](http://www.science.org.au/natcoms)**

Go to <http://www.science.org.au/reports/2008anrep.htm>, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2007 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2008 (200-250 words):

The Committee focussed on the sharp rise in iodine deficiency in Australia with 'A Call to Action' (<http://www.science.org.au/natcoms/nc-nutrition-iodine.htm>) published early in the year. The consequences of iodine deficiency include a fall in Australia's average IQ, a rise in learning difficulties and a fall in the number of gifted individuals. To draw attention to the problem, the Committee organised a one-day symposium at the Shine Dome in May in conjunction with the Nutrition Society of Australia and the International Life Sciences Institute Australasia. Although we cannot claim all the credit, Food Standards Australia New Zealand announced mandatory addition of iodised salt in bread shortly afterwards! However, this move alone is unlikely to be sufficient to protect the most vulnerable section of the population: pregnant women and their offspring. The Committee will therefore focus further efforts on the need for population-based nutrition monitoring in Australia. The Committee is also working on the formation of a leadership program in nutrition for young and middle career nutritionists in Australia and New Zealand. Over the past year, one member of the Committee, Associate Professor Maria Makrides has liaised

with Professor Ricardo Uauy, the President of the International Union of Nutritional Science (IUNS). A one-day session is being organized in Bangkok immediately prior to the IUNS Congress in October 2009. Professor Graeme Macintosh and Ms Nola Caffin will be leaving the committee at the end of 2008 and we are investigating suitable replacements. We are grateful to both Graeme and Nola for their valuable contributions over two terms of office. We are also very grateful to the Academy for their support, particularly to Jeanette Mill, who takes our minutes and keeps us up to date with the Academy's activities.

**Please complete and return this form by 12 December 2008 to:**

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