



# Australian Academy of Science

Ian Potter House, Gordon Street, Canberra 2601

## NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR SCIENCE National Committee for Nutrition

### 2009 BUSINESS PLAN or WORK PLAN, including TIMELINES AND PROPOSED BUDGETS

**Note:** This plan will be published on the National Committee page of the Academy of Science website [www.science.org.au/natcoms](http://www.science.org.au/natcoms).

#### 1. Aims of this National Committee

The primary aim of the Nutrition National Committee is to protect and advance the scientific underpinnings of the discipline of nutrition in Australia

The secondary aim is to promote lifestyle change (nutrition and exercise) within the Australian community to reduce the risk of chronic disease

#### 2. Strategies to allow these aims to be achieved

- Strengthening leadership within the nutrition profession
- Promoting registration of Australia nutritionists
- Lobbying for continuous nutrition monitoring of the population
- Facilitating the international engagement by Australian scientists
- Promoting nutrition interventions at the highest levels of government

#### 3. Plan of work/activities (and proposed budget details) in 2009 which will achieve the aims:

- *Iodine deficiency* among Australian women and children is increasing
  - This issue was the focus of our 2008 workplan and included a one-day symposium at the Shine Dome
  - A summary of the symposium and a press release is on the Academy's website (<http://www.science.org.au/natcoms/iodine.htm>)
  - Although FSANZ has mandated compulsory iodisation of salt used in bread, the NCN is concerned that this is not sufficient to protect the most vulnerable group in the population (pregnant women) and further action is likely
  - In 2009, the NCN will lobby for population monitoring of iodine status along with other nutrients
- *Sodium intake among Australians is too high and kills more people than smoking*
  - This issue will be the focus of our 2009 work plan
  - A one-day symposium for health professionals is being planned during Science Week with a public lecture in the evening
  - We will liaise with Australian Division of World Action on Salt and Health



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- *Focus for 2010*
  - The Committee has suggested that 'Climate Change and the Food Supply' be the focus of work during 2010. We will apply for funding under the Boden Conference scheme (closing date July 2009).
  - NCN will approach the National Committee for Plant and Animal Sciences and the AIFST to determine feasibility of a joint conference.
  - A/Professor Maria Makides has agreed to spearhead this.
- *Decadal Plan for Nutrition*
  - We will make this a major topic of discussion at our first face to face meeting in 2009 (May).
- *Nomination of Fellows of the Academy.*
  - The NCN will pursue the nomination of three individuals during 2009: Professors David Frazer, Basil Hetzel and Lawrie Beilin
- *19<sup>th</sup> International Union of Nutritional Sciences Congress, Oct 6 to 9, 2009, Bangkok, Thailand*
  - Professor Jennie Brand-Miller intends to attend this meeting as the Academy's representative
- *Nutrition Leadership Program*
  - A half-day session on leadership among young nutritionists is being planned immediately prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> IUNS Congress in Bangkok, Oct 6-9, 2009. The NCN agreed to focus on helping both early and *mid-career* researchers.

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

Jeanette Mill

National Relations Officer

Australian Academy of Science

E [jeanette.mill@science.org.au](mailto:jeanette.mill@science.org.au)

P 02 6201 9413

F 02 6201 9494

Ian Potter House, Gordon St, Canberra, ACT, Australia, 2600

GPO Box 783, Canberra, ACT, Australia, 2601