

## **Summary of FSANZ's role in the overall risk assessment of MRLs**

The APVMA may propose MRL variations in the Code to reflect the potential occurrence of residues in food after chemical products are used for agricultural and veterinary purposes in Australia. These MRL variations relate to assessments the APVMA has made of applications for the registration of use of chemical products.

In order to assess the public health and safety implications of chemical residues in food, FSANZ estimates the dietary exposure to residues from potentially treated foods in the diet and compares the dietary exposure with the relevant health-based guidance value, for example the acceptable daily intake (ADI) or the acute reference dose (ARfD). FSANZ also validates dietary exposure assessments carried out by the APVMA.

The ADI and ARfD for individual agricultural and veterinary chemicals are established by the Office of Chemical Safety and Environmental Health (OCSEH) following an assessment of the toxicology of each chemical. In the case that an Australian ADI or ARfD has not been established, a Joint Food and Agriculture Organization / World Health Organization Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) ADI or ARfD may be used for risk assessment purposes.

FSANZ conducts and reviews dietary exposure assessments using the best available scientific data and internationally recognised risk assessment methodology. Variations to limits in the Code will not be supported where estimated dietary exposures to the residues of a chemical indicate a potential public health and safety risk for the population or a population sub group.

The steps undertaken in conducting a dietary exposure assessment are:

- determining the residues of a chemical in a treated food
- calculating dietary exposure to a chemical from relevant foods, using residue data and food consumption data from national nutrition surveys
- completing a risk characterisation where estimated dietary exposures are compared to the relevant health-based guidance value.