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## Chronic disease groups concerned by ministers' decision

Today's decision by food and health ministers to allow the food industry to claim health benefits on foods, with no independent verification is of great concern to chronic disease groups.

The Australian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance (ACDPA) Chair, Professor Greg Johnson, said this decision was very disappointing and places consumers at risk of being misled into buying unhealthy foods at a time of public health concerns over increasing overweight and obesity.

"We do not support this backwards step in the development of regulations covering general level health claims on packaged foods" said Professor Johnson.

"In the European system, which requires independent approval before a product can go on the market, 9 out of 10 products which claim a health benefit are not approved for release" said Professor Johnson.

"We will be vigorously arguing for independent verification of all health claims before a product can be released onto the market" said Professor Johnson.

The Australian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance is an alliance of the leading charities working in chronic disease prevention (National Heart Foundation, National Stroke Foundation, Kidney Health Australia, Diabetes Australia and Cancer Council Australia)

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