

5 June 2024

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2024041709

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 16 May 2024 for:

*“Can you please advise the date that dietary supplements were “no longer part of medicines regulatory function.”
Can you also advise the date that dietary supplements became a “part of medicines regulatory function.”*

The Dietary Supplements Regulations 1985 were established under the Food Act 1981 and are currently enabled under the Food Act 2014.

Prior to the establishment of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority, and then the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) in April 2012, the responsibility for Food Safety sat within the Food and Nutrition section in the (then) Department of Health.

The introduction to the Manufacture and Packaging of Dietary Supplements Code of Good Manufacturing Practice 1988 referred to in your email identifies that the Department of Health was responsible for the safety and quality of dietary supplements in New Zealand. It was the Department of Health that worked with Industry to develop the code.

I can locate no information that identifies why this code was made available from the Therapeutics Section within the Department of Health.

No information can be identified that suggests dietary supplements were ever part of the medicines regulatory function.

I can confirm that the Director of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority delegated responsibility for the administration of the Dietary Supplements Regulations 1985 to the Director-General of Health, effective 31 March 2010. The Director-General of Health then delegated this responsibility to Medsafe.

As the manufacture of dietary supplements is not included within the scope of the Dietary Supplements Regulations, this function was not delegated to Medsafe in 2010.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Chris James
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Medsafe