

PTIN Food Safety Incident Management Workshop

Big Sky, Montana, USA
14-15 May 2011

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF)
Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN)



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation



FSCF Food Safety
Cooperation Forum
PTIN Partnership Training
Institute Network



FOOD STANDARDS
Australia New Zealand
Te Mana Kounga Kai - Ahitereiria me Aotearoa



The Australian Food Incident Management System



Melanie Fisher
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Food Standards Australia New Zealand

Australian Political System

- Federal system
- Comprises National Government
- 6 States
- 2 Territories
- many local Authorities

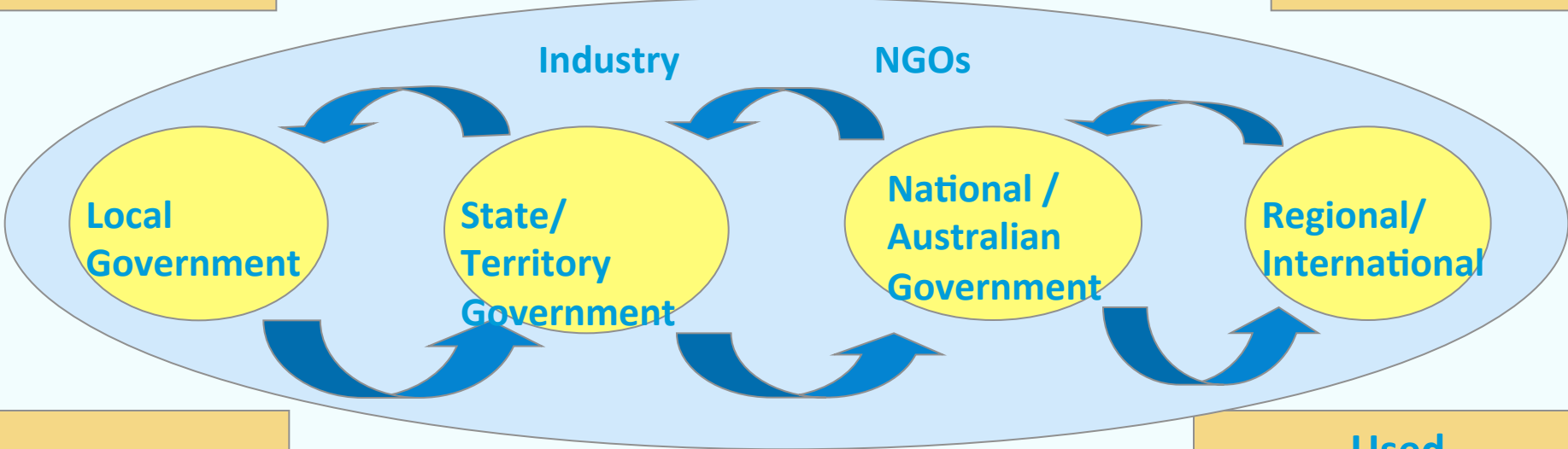


ALL HAZARDS - ALL AGENCIES

Coordinated

Partnerships

Whole of Community



Integrated

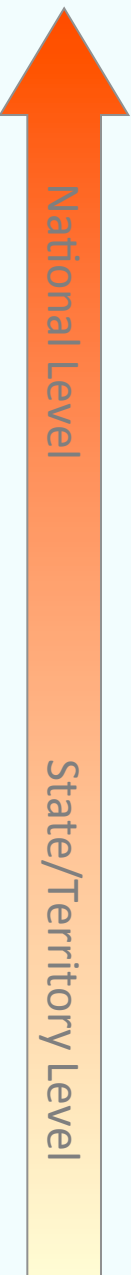
Used Known Systems

Prevention

Preparedness

Response

Recovery



NATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM PLAN

Incident

COMDISPLAN
(Australian Government Disaster Response Plan)

Agricultural Incident

Health Incident

Food Incident

National Food Safety Incident Response Protocol

NATIONAL FOOD PLANS:

- National guidelines for managing national outbreaks of foodborne illness (OZFoodNet-under development)

STATE FOOD PLANS:

- Examples of state/territory emergency plans:
 - NSW Food Industry Emergency Sub Plan
 - PIRSA Food Safety – Incident Response Plan

INDUSTRY PLANS:

- Examples of industry emergency plans:
 - National Dairy emergency plan
 - National Seafood emergency plan
 - National Meat emergency plan

Australian Government Agricultural Emergency Plan

National Food Safety Incident Response Protocol

No general overarching health response plan.

- NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL PLANS:**
- AUSVETPLAN
 - PLANTPLAN
 - AQUAVETPLAN
 - Safe-meat Incident Response Manual

- NATIONAL FOOD PLANS:**
- National guidelines for managing national outbreaks of foodborne illness (OZFoodNet-under development)

- NATIONAL HEALTH PLANS:**
- Australian management plan for pandemic influenza
 - AUSBURNPLAN

- STATE AGRICULTURAL PLANS:**
- Examples of state/territory emergency plans:
 - NSW State Agricultural and Animal Services Plan
 - Westplan-Animal Diseases
 - NSW Animal Health Emergency Sub-plan

- STATE FOOD PLANS:**
- Examples of state/territory emergency plans:
 - NSW Food Industry Emergency Sub Plan
 - PIRSA Food Safety – Incident Response Plan

- STATE HEALTH PLANS:**
- Examples of state/territory emergency plans:
 - NSW Healthplan
 - NSW Health Pandemic Influenza Action Plan
 - Westplan-Health
 - Westplan-Human Epidemic
 - Health emergency management support plan (Westplan-Health)
 - SA Pandemic Influenza Operational Plan
 - Tasmania Major Epidemics Management Plan
 - Queensland Chemical, Biological and Radiological Plan

- INDUSTRY PLANS:**
- Examples of industry emergency plans:
 - Beef Industry Emergency Animal Disease Response Plan
 - Australian Pork Industry Management Plan

- INDUSTRY PLANS:**
- Examples of industry emergency plans:
 - National Dairy emergency plan
 - National Seafood emergency plan
 - National Meat emergency plan

Plans related to food incidents

**National Health Security Agreement
and related documents**



**OzFoodNet Draft Guideline for
multijurisdictional outbreaks of
foodborne illness**



**National Food Safety Incident
Response Protocol (for managing
tracing, testing and removal of
unsafe food)**



STATE FOOD PLANS:

Examples :

**NSW Food Industry Emergency Sub Plan
PIRSA Food Safety – Incident Response
Plan**

INDUSTRY PLANS:

Examples:

**National Dairy emergency plan
National Seafood emergency plan
National Meat emergency plan**

National food incidents -the last 3 years

- 2008: cyanogenic glycosides, vegetable crackers
- 2008: metal contamination, meat and frozen products
- 2008: Contaminated dairy products from China (Melamine)
- 2008: Contaminated pork from Ireland
- 2009: Hep A linked to consumption of semi-dried tomatoes
- 2010: Iodine (Bonsoy and seaweed) linked to thyroid dysfunction
- 2010: *Listeria* in melons
- 2010: Sibutramine in weight loss products
- 2011: Peanut in soy flour
- 2011: Latin Seed
- 2011: *Japan Nuclear Incident*

Lesson learned – what works well

- Preparedness is the Key
 - Documentation of roles and processes
 - Use of templates
- International cooperation and advice
- Goodwill and assistance from industry
- Coordination and cooperation amongst many government agencies
- The use of debriefs and reviews after each incident

Lesson learned – the challenges

- **Each incident reveals different opportunities to improve our systems**
- **Incidents usually involve imported food or ingredients –international processes still evolving**
- **Emerging issues difficult to spot, assess and prepare for**

Lesson learned – the challenges

- New issues difficult to respond to quickly – eg viruses, parasites, radiation.
- Industry preparedness varies – especially for ingredient tracing
- Linkages between government and industry systems not as well established as we would like
- Laboratory capacity

Lessons learned – the challenges

- A need to improve the efficiency of our systems, processes and documentation
- Dealing with and communicating scientific uncertainty
- Potential for loss of consumer confidence



What will be Australia's next areas of focus

- **Establishing international relationships and processes**
- **Refining and documenting links between the different government incident management systems**
- **Working with domestic industry to improve the linkages between their emergency systems and government systems**

Three take-home messages

- Good preparation is essential
- Globalisation of food supply chains means international linkages are critical
- Risk and crisis communication will influence public perception





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Thank You





Alert

- Incident notified to central notification point
- Information circulated to all food incident contact officers



Action

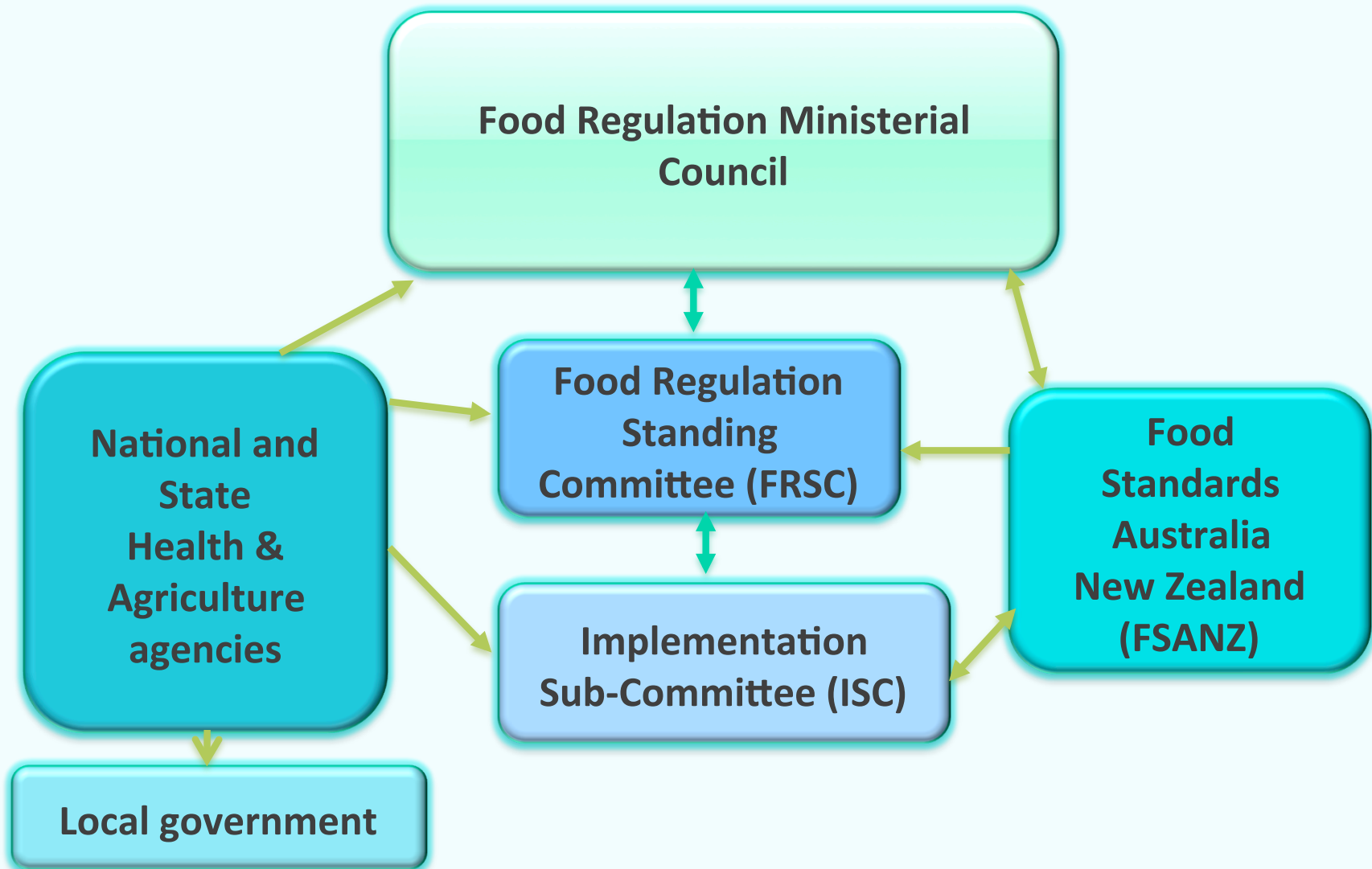
- FSANZ convenes teleconferences to consider level of action required
- Action phase process followed



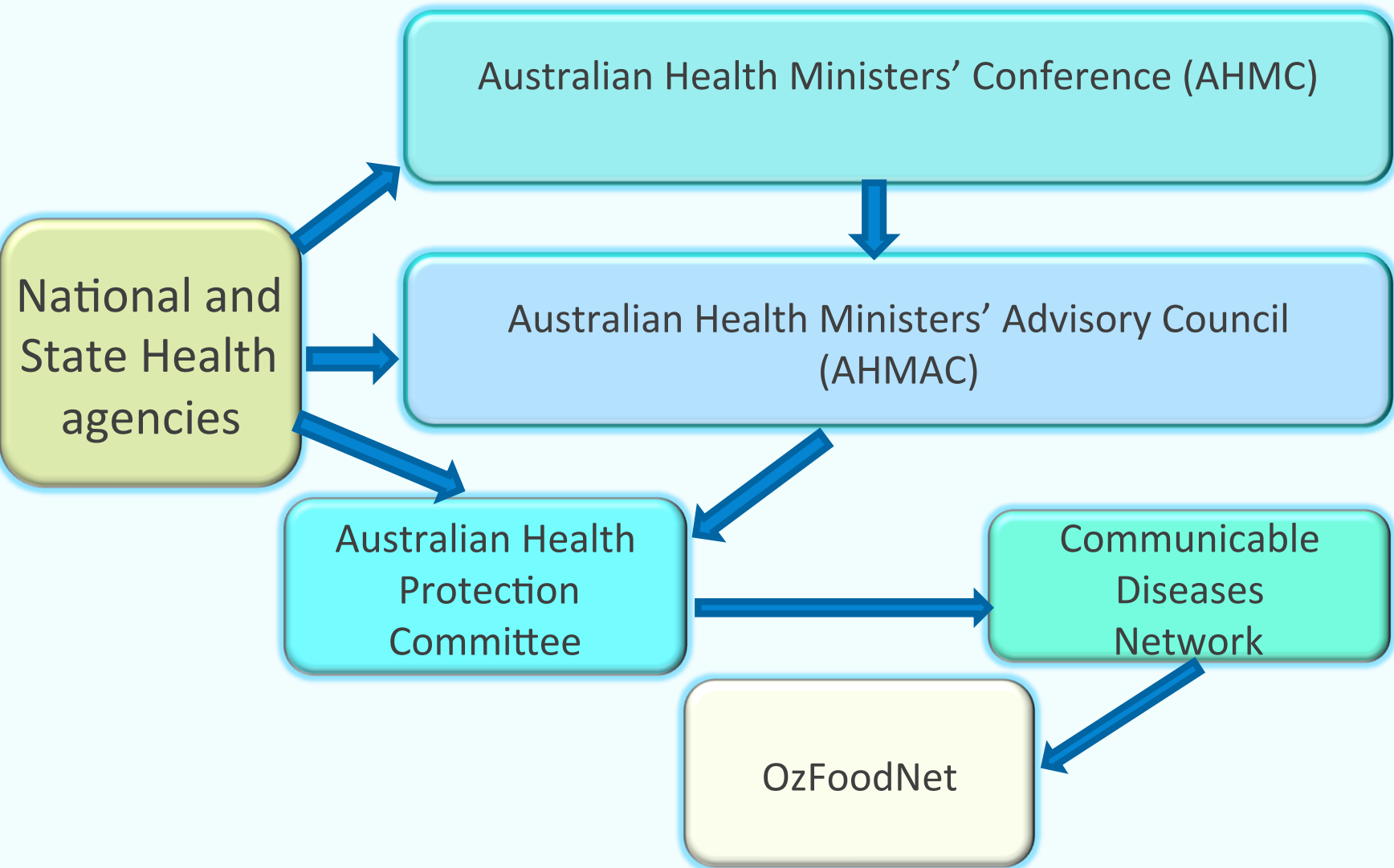
Stand down

- Nationally coordinated action no longer required – return to business as usual
- Debrief and review of Protocol

Australian Food Regulatory Framework



Australian Foodborne Illness Regulatory Framework



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