



**ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH
AUSTRALIA**

AUSTRALIAN FOOD SAFETY WEEK

9 – 16 November 2024

Lydia Buchtman

CEO Food Safety Information Council

Lydia Buchtman is the Canberra based CEO and since 1997 has headed communications for the health promotion charity the Food Safety Information Council. From 1997 to 2010 she headed the Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Section for the government regulator Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

At FSANZ she worked on complex issues such as food labelling, consumer concerns about chemicals in food and genetically modified food as well as major food emergencies such as the melamine milk contamination in China. She established and chaired the Government Food Communicators Group of communicators from state and territory governments and New Zealand food regulators and was a member of a similar group linking communication experts from Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian food regulators.

Lydia has a Masters in Communication (by research) from the University of Canberra 2001. She is a Fellow of Communication and Public Relations Australia and is also a life member of the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance.





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Dr Catherine McAuley

Food Microbiologist, CSIRO

Catherine McAuley obtained a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at the University of Melbourne and has worked at the food research complex in Werribee, Victoria in what is now part of CSIRO, for over 30 years.

Cathy obtained a PhD in dairy microbiology from the University of Melbourne in 2017. In addition to research involving sausage and cheesemaking and sensory analysis, Cathy has worked in food microbiology with a broad range of dairy, food spoilage, food safety and human health microorganisms, including Clostridium, Cronobacter, enterococci, Listeria, Salmonella and thermophilic spore forming bacteria.

As part of CSIRO's contribution to the Covid-19 response, Cathy went on secondment to Seqirus (CSL) from December 2020-June 2022, working in Quality Control - Sterility to assist with the release of the AstraZeneca vaccine, as well as flu vaccines and antivenoms.

