



Folic Acid

Consultation, outcome and next steps



Consultation

- 22 July 2009 – discussion paper released
- 351 interested parties were contacted
- Advertisements placed in the four major daily papers
- 3 week consultation period which closed on 12 August 2009



Response

- 124 submissions received
- Approximately even split for and against
- Clear divide between health sector and consumers and industry



Analysis

- Established a multi-disciplinary team
- 12-18 August: submissions analysed and recommendations to Minister



Outcome

- Agreed that the scientific evidence for safety and efficacy for folic acid was strong
- Agreed that consumers were concerned and industry did not support the intervention
- Agreed to continue with voluntary fortification and review after 3 years



Next Steps...

- Industry to consider voluntary initiatives and supporting arrangements
- NZFSA will continue to monitor international developments
- New Zealand folic acid dietary intake will be estimated

- Decision based on information:
 - collected domestically and internationally;
and
 - from FSANZ
- Decision made by the New Zealand Minister