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Submission from Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA):

Food allergen content exemptions cannot be considered because there is a huge food safety risk to consumers with food allergy. This will impact greatly on the health and wellbeing of people with food allergy and potentially add more of a challenge to an existing crisis such as Covid-19/natural disasters. Ideally, we need to have a plan to get appropriate food to people with potentially life-threatening dietary needs during a crisis, such as a natural disaster or pandemic, and not consider food allergen labelling exemptions.

Any easing of food labelling regulations in emergencies is counterproductive and potentially harmful. We believe that food labelling needs to tighten, with much work needed on addressing concerns with online allergen information and consistency with on pack information. During times of crisis, emergency services are often stretched, so we do not want inadequate food allergen labelling to lead to any avoidable severe allergic reactions requiring emergency care.

Thank you for reaching out to A&AA for comment. Again, I apologise for the late response.

Kind regards,

Maria Said Chief Executive Officer | Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia