

NEWS RELEASE

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GRAINCARE QA PROGRAM – DEVELOPED & OWNED BY GROWERS

“*Graincare* - the national On-Farm Quality Assurance (QA) program – was developed by growers, through the Grains Council of Australia and supported by the Grains Research & Development Corporation, so that growers had access to a low cost, but very effective, food and feed safety assurance system”, GCA President Mr Keith Perrett said today.

The program is owned by GCA and GRDC on behalf of growers and was developed after nation-wide consultations with growers, bulk handlers, end-users and marketers. The program is managed by Industry Services *australia*, which has been engaged to provide effective delivery services to growers, including training and auditing infrastructure and to ensure that the program continues to meet the needs of end-users and marketers of grain.

“One of the benefits that *Graincare* offers is its seamless link to the Cattlecare and Flockcare QA programs so that growers have an easily managed, single audit whole-of-farm QA system”, Mr Perrett said. “Another significant aspect is the program’s requirement for independent, third party on-farm audits to ensure the credibility of the Code of Practice that growers follow, which is a vital element in the program’s value to end-users in Australia.”

Graincare was designed to be flexible, so as to allow any additional requirements that end-users or marketers identified to be incorporated in the program.

“This was done to avoid a proliferation of QA programs and to ensure that the standards are applicable on a national basis, so that marketers, for example, have confidence in the grain they are selling, regardless of its origin”, Mr Perrett noted.

“It is disappointing that CBH has chosen to implement its own internal QA program in a way that discriminates against growers involved in the *Graincare* program”, Mr Perrett said.

“GCA is committed to ensuring that growers in WA are able to take advantage of their own program both now and into the future and we look forward to working positively with CBH to achieve that objective.”

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