

NEWS RELEASE

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INDUSTRY SERVICES AUSTRALIA TO MANAGE GRAINCARE

The Grains Council of Australia (GCA) and the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) today announced that Industry Services Australia (ISa) – a division of the Australian Wool Exchange Ltd – would take over the administration of the *Graincare* On-Farm quality assurance (QA) program.

Mr Jock Kreitals, Executive Director of GCA said that, after a competitive tender process, ISa had been selected to manage the *Graincare* program. ISa will be responsible for grower liaison, the management of registration and compliance (working with independent auditors), production and distribution of manuals and, in conjunction with the TAFE NSW – Western Institute, the coordination of facilitator and auditor training and accreditation.

ISa will work with GCA to promote the program to growers, end-users and marketers. "Services to these sectors will be unchanged", Mr Kreitals said, "and the close relationship with the CATTLECARE and Flockcare QA programs will be maintained. This will be important for the growers in providing for single on-farm audits and a pathway to whole-of-farm QA."

The Managing Director of the GRDC, Professor John Lovett, noted that both GRDC and GCA would maintain a close interest and involvement in the running of the *Graincare* program. "In order that the grains industry's perspective is fully taken into account, both organisations will be participating in an Advisory Committee that will oversee the standards of the program. That body will also consider the development of any new elements, such as environmental management systems or occupational health and safety measures, that might be required by customers in addition to the current food and feed safety provisions of the program", he said.

Mr Kreitals also commented that contact with growers and the broader industry would continue through GCA and its State affiliates to ensure that the needs of growers, marketers and end-users were being met and, ultimately, buyers' requirements could be satisfied.

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