

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **GRAINCARE PROVIDES INDUSTRY WIDE APPROACH TO QUALITY ASSURANCE**

“The national *Graincare* On-Farm Quality Assurance (QA) program provides an industry wide solution for grain growers to give all marketers and end users of Australian grain the ability to trace their product back to paddock and the confidence that the product is contaminant free.” Mr Lindsay Spencer, Manager of Industry Services *australia* (ISa) said today. ISa has recently been selected by GRDC and GCA to manage the nationally accepted industry developed and owned *Graincare* program, to increase its commercial focus and provide real benefits to all Australian grain growers and end users.

Mr Spencer confirmed that, “Several hundred grain growers are currently producing quality assured grain through *Graincare*, with many enjoying the benefits of the long established linkages with the Cattlecare and Flockcare QA programs. This close working relationship provides accredited growers with an easy to manage, duplication free and cost effective option for whole-of-farm Quality Assurance.”

Mr Spencer challenged recent comments made by Co-operative Bulk Handling (CBH) that *Graincare* accredited growers in Western Australia would be required to “*upgrade*” their QA certification through additional costly training to meet the requirements of the recently announced CBH internal QA program.

“With no evidence that this new system holds any advantages for food and feed safety over *Graincare*, it is questionable why growers should be required to be re-trained and re-certified in what appears to be yet another QA system.” Mr Spencer said. “In fact, according to the many and diverse end users of grain that ISa has contacted whilst working on behalf of grain growers promoting *Graincare*, one of the most important attributes of *Graincare* is its requirement for third party on-farm auditing. This is an integral attribute that is not included in the CBH program, which reduces the independence and credibility that the system can demonstrate.”

ISa encourages CBH to reconsider its position on *Graincare*, and to provide Western Australian grain growers with the right to choose when implementing on-farm QA so they are free to adopt *Graincare* without risking financial disadvantage.

Ends.

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