

Elizabeth Marsden  
Address removed for privacy

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Food Regulation Secretariat  
PO Box 4  
Woden ACT 2606

**Attention: Food Regulation Secretariat**

**Re: Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy - Submission**

I would like to make a submission to your review of food labelling laws as a consumer and a parent.

Please change the requirements for labelling so that ALL foods that contain genetically modified ingredients (even if they only contain a trace or are highly processed) state this, as well as food products from animals that are fed on GM feed. I ask this because:

- I am not confident that FSANZ can claim these ingredients are safe given that they only rely on data from the manufacturer in testing GM foods for safety
- Farmers are given the choice to grow GM canola. It is only fair that I am given the choice whether or not to eat them. I am unable to exercise this choice if the foods aren't labelled.

I have read and understand the Review Panel report has put forward 39 questions which to address this month. Of those questions, I feel at least the following need to be re-addressed given the concerns of many parents like myself:-

**Q2.** All food labelling should be truthful, transparent, accurate, honest, informative and not a promotion. We want the information on the product itself at the point of sale.

**Q6.** All ingredients derived fully or partly from GM crops or processes need to be labelled. This includes refined products such as oils, sugars, starches, honey, additives and enzymes, and animal products derived fully or partly from GM feed, which currently escape labelling. GM animal feed needs to be labelled. This is "process-based" labelling. We reject suggestions that GM food becomes 'normal unlabelled food', with our usual food being labelled instead as "GM free".

**Q13.** There have been too few independent studies to feel confident in the safety of GM foods. In fact, [Doctors specialising in environmental medicine say there is a link between GM foods and illness](#). They state "several animal studies indicate serious health risks associated with GM food consumption". They include: allergy; gastrointestinal, liver and

kidney changes; immune dysregulation; dysregulation of insulin and cholesterol response; accelerated ageing and reduced fertility. There have been no studies anywhere in the world to say whether GM food has been safe to eat or not. We reject the suggestion that GM is just a consumer concern that doesn't need labelling. GM food is not the same as non-GM food.

**Q19.** We want full GM process-based food labelling irrespective of how this may "inhibit" the development of new technologies. If new technologies such as GM, nanotechnology and irradiation can only be successful if they are hidden, unlabelled in our food, we should be very suspicious.

I believe an open and transparent food industry will only increase the power of choice in the consumer and allow people to make their own decisions with regards to their food purchases. If companies have nothing to hide, then they in essence also have nothing to fear.

Thank you for your time

Elizabeth Marsden  
(Mother of Ella and Aidan)