

COVER SHEET FOR SUBMISSION

REVIEW OF FOOD LABELLING LAW AND POLICY

DETAILS FOR PUBLICATION:

Nathalie Haymann (Ms)

CONTACT DETAILS:

PO Box 247
Jurien Bay WA 6516

Ph: 08 96522063

Email: nhaymann@westnet.com.au

I do not wish my submission to remain confidential. I consent to having my submission published on the internet.

I consent to having my name published on the internet with my submission, and do not wish my submission to be treated as anonymous.

My submission does not contain personal information of third party individuals.

Evidence of written consent regarding third party individuals is not applicable.

SUBMISSION - FOOD LABELLING REVIEW ROUND 2

Submitted by Nathalie Haymann, of PO Box 247, Jurien Bay, WA 6516
Ph: 08 96522063 Email: nhaymann@westnet.com.au

Q1. The first question of the “extent to which the food regulatory system should be used to meet broader public health objectives” I found to be unanswerable because “broader public health objectives” is not quantified.

Q2. To put adequate information on food labels means to provide the public with truthful, transparent, easy to read (eg. yellow on black), adequate information about the food they may be about to consume.

Q3. Accurate and consistent labeling could be ensured by having irregular, independent spot checks carried out on labelling, with corporate miscreants required to correct the problem, make a public apology and explain why their labeling was inaccurate.

Q4. The principle guiding decisions about government intervention on food labeling should be concern for public health and well-being before corporate profit.

Q5. The criteria determining intervention on food labeling should be ambiguity, lack of clarity and misleading or dishonest labeling.

Q6. All ingredients derived fully or partly from GM crops or processes need to be labeled, including refined products such as oils, sugars starches, honey, additives and enzymes and animal products derived fully or partly from GM feed, which currently escape labeling. GM animal feed needs to be labeled - “process-based” labeling.

Q11. The practical implications and consequences of aligning the regulations relating to health claims on foods and complementary medicine products would be that fraudulent health claims could be exposed and the public would become better informed. The profit margins of dishonest players in the field would be reduced or negated.

Q13. There have been no long term, peer-reviewed studies carried out anywhere in the world to say whether GM food has been or will be safe to eat. Information independent of vested interests show a link between GM foods and

illness, including from the American Academy of Environmental Medicine, who argue that “because GM foods have not been properly tested for human consumption, and because there is ample evidence of probable harm”, doctors should advise the community to “avoid GM foods when possible.”

Q15. All foods, without exception, should now have country of origin labeling.

Q16. Honesty and simplicity in labeling terminology with no fear of scrutiny and nothing to hide, will bring clarity.

Q17. Yes. Agreed definitions of terms should be included in the Food Standards Code.

Q18. A substantial fine should be imposed for the provision of false or misleading information leading to incorrect or misleading labeling which could affect people’s health.

Q19. Full labeling of GM process-based food should be mandatory regardless of whether this might “inhibit” the development of whizzbang 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.

Q20. Food is a nutritional requirement. Alcohol is not.

Q21. The font size specified for wording should not be minimum size – it should be clear, non-seriph and easy to read.

Q23. The information on food labels should be arranged to balance the presentation of a range of information while minimizing information overload with imagination, flair and care.

Q24. Consumers could be best informed to maximize their understanding of the terms and figures used on food labels by regular exposure to this information via the media.

Q26. The main objective informing decisions relevant to the format of front-of-pack labeling should be ease of, and trust in instant and simple identification, while holding a four week old baby in one arm (colicky because of what you may have inadvertently ingested as a sleep-deprived breast feeding mother), holding a four year old by the hand, and wheeling a supermarket trolley with a two year old in it, together with food you are buying to feed them with, which you hope won’t cause anaphylactic shock, allergic reactions or manic behaviour as a result of ingesting GM sugar as well as colourings, additives, enhancers, and other corporate profit-enhancing substances.

