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MADGE mothers against genetic engineering www.madge.org.au

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Rudd's broken promise gambles with our health.

Russell Broadbent, Federal MP for McMillan, has called for a full scientific investigation into the risks to our health from GM food. (1)

"The Rudd government broke its first election promise when it allowed GM canola to be planted in Victoria and NSW.

Labour promised that genetically modified (GM) crops would not be released without community support and proof that they are safe. (2)

There is neither popular support for GM nor any scientific evidence it is safe to eat" Says Fran Murrell from MADGE.

Russell Broadbent called for the investigation after listening to the concerns of a wide range of his constituents.

Yesterday WA Premier, Alan Carpenter, called for better labelling of GM foods and an immediate halt to the approval of all GM foods in Australia until more is known about the safety of eating them". (3)

"We would like to see every politician go and listen to the concern in the community about GM food and health." Said Fran

"The General Public is tired of empty claims that GM food has been rigorously tested.

Only 4 long term tests have been published on GM. Three of these studies were irrelevant to human health as they were done on quail, mice and sheep (4).

The fourth test was on rats fed GM soy. Over half of these rats had their offspring die within 3 weeks of birth. The survivors had major fertility problems." (5)

"If this is rigorous testing I'd hate to see what rubber stamping would look like" said Fran

"GM food should never have got onto supermarket shelves with this unbelievably minimal amount of testing. GM food has turned every meal into a gamble with our health. It is an outrage." Said Fran Murrell

(1) <http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/reps/latesthansard/rhansard.pdf> page 81

(2) <http://getup.org.au/promisewatch/archives/691>

(3) <http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemId=130290>

(4) Flachowsky, Archives of animal nutrition, Dec 2005; 59(6): 449-451; Brake and Evenson, Food and Chemical Toxicology 42 (2004) 29-36 and Magnani, Livestock Science 113 (2008) 178-190

(5) http://www.i-sis.org.uk/GM_Soya_Fed_Rats.php