



For Immediate Release: 3rd December 2010

MADGE calls for GM labelling progress - Auditor General reports “gaps” in GM data

MADGE Australia has asked to receive the Food Labelling Review material presented today to the FSANZ Ministerial Council.

“Consumers have been kept in the dark for more than a decade about GM ingredients in the food we’ve been paying for” said Madeleine Love of MADGE.

“We don’t want to be kept in the dark about the progress of a Review we’re paying for, and we don’t want to read about what took place at the Ministerial Council in a decade’s time via leaked cables.”

As part of this Review the Australian Food and Grocery Council has acknowledged by submission that if all GM ingredients required labelling, most products would carry a GM label. Almost all GM ingredients in products on our supermarket shelves escape labelling under current labelling standards.

“I thought I was avoiding GM food. I used to check the food for GM labels and I didn’t see any. I’ve been misled and deceived into buying food I would have otherwise rejected.”

“After learning that I’d been eating it while pregnant and breastfeeding, and feeding it to my very young children, I began to investigate its true safety status. There was not one study looking to see whether it had been harmful to eat. At first I thought our regulators couldn’t be that bad.”

“I read misrepresenting material from FSANZ (and predecessor ANZFA), riddled with basic errors in science. I went to the raw data of GM companies such as Monsanto, Dow and Syngenta and I’ve been buried in this detritus of commercial product invention for three years.”

“The Auditor General’s very recent review of FSANZ safety assessments reported gaps in the supporting data, saying “either the information was not provided by the applicants; or FSANZ had not documented whether the requirements were met.””

http://www.anao.gov.au/download.cfm?item_id=5D27EE2D1560A6E8AA0DF290667A312F&binary_id=5CBDF7B61560A6E8AAD17DDF2802E923 Paragraph 3.31

“The Auditor also reported that a GM company could provide supporting documentation or scientific studies that could be incorrect or incomplete, and that there was no way to assess this.” Paragraph 3.32

“There is no reason to have any confidence of the safety of this food. FSANZ has not been providing the public with information about the failure of the GM companies to meet full compliance with the basic Good Laboratory Practices designed to prevent lab fraud. “

“Is our regulation really that bad? Yes it is.”

“All ingredients derived fully or partly from GM crops or processes need to be labelled, and we want to know how our Review money is being spent; it seems COAG has the right to decide whether we can even read the report.”

5th November Media Release of the Food Labelling Review: “Following two rounds of public consultation, the Independent Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy is now in the final stages of writing its report.” [...] “The Review Panel will make a presentation to the Food Standards Ministerial Council at its meeting on 3 December 2010. COAG will decide on the public release of the report after it receives the final Report in early 2011.”

<http://www.foodlabellingreview.gov.au/internet/foodlabelling/publishing.nsf/Content/mediarel-05112010>