



For Immediate Release: 28 January 2011

Blewett Panel recommendations allow GM labelling deception

The Final Report of Food Labelling Review Independent Expert Panel was published today <http://bit.ly/dLbYCX>

MADGE is deeply disappointed that the majority of GM derived ingredients in our food will remain unlabelled, if the Panel's recommendations are adopted after consultation.

MADGE is a voluntary community group of mothers and others investigating food.

Madeleine Love of MADGE said "Australians have been deceived for over a decade into buying food they wouldn't otherwise have purchased if it had been truthfully labelled."

"Mothers are eating unlabelled GM food while they are pregnant and breastfeeding. They are feeding unlabelled GM ingredients to their babies through infant formula, and we expect through breastmilk as well."

"In the very few studies looking at human health endpoints GM foods have been associated with a range of illnesses of increasing prevalence in the community."

"We have a right to know what is in our food. We don't want our children to be the next victims of the out-of-control agri-chemical industry."

"Routinely in surveys ~90% of people say they want GM ingredients fully labelled. People really care about this with the Panel reporting "The genetic engineering of food gave rise to more submissions and more comments in consultation than any other single issue."

"Yet the Panel recommended 'no change' for the major GM labelling issues. Ingredients deemed to be 'refined' won't be labelled, nor will products of animals raised on GM feed, even though they have been demonstrated to contain GM residues. Additives produced in Genetically Modified bacteria, fungi, yeast also escape labelling."

"Apparent concessions are trivial. The Panel recommended that flavours be labelled if they contain GM residues, but we don't know any that do. The Panel recommended that restaurants and takeaways label GM ingredients, but since most GM ingredients escape labelling on supermarket shelves we don't expect to see GM labels on menus."

"When 90% of Australians want GM food fully labelled, and it isn't being labelled, there is a serious democratic issue. Who is profiting from leaving GM ingredients unlabelled?"

**Contact: Fran Murrell 0401 407 944 (MADGE spokesperson),
Madeleine Love 0447 762 284**