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MADGE Australia Inc – for Food We Can Trust

MADGE Australia Inc has launched today to signal the next phase in the campaign for food we can trust.

Formerly known as "Mothers are Demystifying Genetic Engineering", MADGE Australia will research the food system to allow people to choose food that is good for those who eat it, grow it, produce and sell it; and for the planet.

Spokesperson Fran Murrell said "We felt like we'd finished the demystifying of GM food and crops. We've done a tremendous amount of research, we're sure of what we know, and now it's time to take it out to the people."

"There are many more emerging risks in food, such as unlabelled and untested products of nanotechnology, and MADGE Australia is taking them on board.

Here are some things MADGE Australia thinks people would like to know about GM foods and regulation:

- Doctors specialising in environmental medicine say there is a link between GM foods and illness. (1)

They state "... several animal studies indicate serious health risks associated with GM food consumption ...".

The risks include: allergy; gastrointestinal, liver and kidney changes; immune dysregulation; dysregulation of insulin and cholesterol response; accelerated ageing and reduced fertility.

- GM food is not independently tested – Our food regulators, FSANZ, **do not** test the food.

They say "It is the responsibility of companies that have developed GM foods to demonstrate the safety of that food and to supply FSANZ with the raw data from scientific studies to prove this." (2)

FSANZ also expect "the developer to monitor for existing and emerging risks that may be associated with its product and notify regulatory authorities whenever new information is uncovered." (3)

This is like asking tobacco companies to provide evidence that smoking is safe.

- There aren't any GM crops with health benefits, high yields, salt or drought tolerance.

Most crops are genetically modified either to create their own poisons to kill insects or to survive when sprayed with weedkiller. (4)

Currently although up to 70% of processed food contains GM ingredients (5) almost none legally require labelling. (6) Nanoparticles in food and packaging do not currently require labelling.

MADGE Australia is asking people to send a short email to the Food Labelling Review, and to send a tweet

"Urgent Action for GM & nano food labelling Pls RT: <http://bit.ly/1gdwR9> #LabelGMFood @MADGEAustralia"

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(1) <http://www.aaemonline.org/gmopost.htm> | American Academy of Environmental Medicine

(2) <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/foodmatters/gmfoods/index.cfm>

(3) <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/foodmatters/gmfoods/frequentlyaskedquest3862.cfm>

(4) <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/foodmatters/gmfoods/gmcurrentapplication1030.cfm>

(5) <http://www.aqbioforum.org/v5n3/v5n3a06-phillips.htm>

(6) <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/thecode/foodstandardscode/standard152foodprodu4248.cfm>