



For Immediate Release: 28 September 2010

No “Safe Levels” of GM

MADGE mothers went to Coles, Fitzroy yesterday morning on hearing that Greenpeace had found GM ingredients in S26 soy infant formula.

"We are relieved that Greenpeace and Channel 7 are doing what the government should have done long ago - testing to see if our food is contaminated with GM ingredients" said Fran Murrell of MADGE "We spent the day putting contamination labels on S26 soy tins and informing shoppers about the unlabelled GM in their food."

"MADGE is very aware that this story may cause anguish for mothers feeding their babies this formula. Soy formula is a product that is sometimes used when all else has failed. We are not aware of any non-dairy GM-free alternative, and ask Wyeth/Pfizer to rapidly replace their contaminated formula with GM free guaranteed formula."

Madeleine Love said "Our labeling laws allow companies to escape labeling their products if the GM contamination is less than 1%, but only where it is unintentional. "

"Wyeth's claim of 'safe levels' of contamination is meaningless. There are no 'safe levels' – just levels at which a company might be able to escape labeling liability if an unforeseen GM contamination accident occurs."

"With respect to 'safety', on the current understanding, one minute exposure to a novel piece of GM material could sensitise a child to a life-threatening allergy, for life. We have no intention of taking such a risk on behalf of our children.

"We have a right to know what is in our food. If Wyeth sees GM contamination as a casual 'normal', we see GM labeling on the tin as normal. If Wyeth has an intention that their product be uncontaminated, they should source GM free soy."

MADGE is arranging a meeting with Wyeth/Pfizer.

URL for yesterday's release "Unlabelled GM residues in infant formula"

<http://www.madge.org.au/Docs/gm-in-infant-formula.pdf>

Contacts:

Fran Murrell 0401 407 944

Madeleine Love 0447 762 284