
From: Nathan Bentley
Sent: Saturday, 16 May 2015 12:18 AM
To: Economics, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Submission to the review of Third party certification of food

Hi,

My name is Nathan Bentley. I live in

I wish to lodge a submission to the third part certification of food review as follows:

As someone who does not identify as mainstream religious (Christian, Buddhist, Hindi, Muslim or Jewish) I believe that it is discriminatory to "Bless, certify, tax or endorse" any food item for sale in the marketplace, and then not inform me that this is the case at the point of sale.

In addition:

- I also feel that any food or consumer item that carries religious certification should be made to display those certifications clearly on the front of their packaging, in a unified and standardized manner, and that food that is Blessed, certified, taxed or endorsed but not displaying this information (for example when new packaging is used or for old stock) it should be legally required to be removed from circulation and either re-packaged or destroyed.
- I submit that religious Blessings, certifications, taxes or endorsements are offensive to me.
- I believe that it is fraudulent to insist on monetary payment for any form of certification
- I believe that if any financial transactions or exchanges of money are required for Blessing, certification or endorsements that these should be borne entirely by the organisations or religious groups demanding them
- I believe that "Ritual Slaughter" is inhumane, abhorrent and completely inappropriate in all circumstances
- I believe that if third party certification of food is to continue, then those organisations should:
 - Not be given tax exempt status due to religious grounds
 - Be required to publicly and fully account for every dollar that they earn and make this data available in easy to understand terms on forums that are accessible to at least 80 percent of the population of Australia
 - Must be mediated by a third party organisation to ensure that the money taken remains 100% within the country
 - The profits of which must not be allocated to only a single religious group or faith.

In summary, I am completely opposed to Third party certification of food and believe that it is a basic human right for me to choose NOT to support religions, ideologies or groups that I do not identify with when making necessary consumer decisions such as food purchasing in Australia.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission