

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Kate Stotskaia and I am a medical student in Victoria. I am writing regarding the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009, in support of the mandatory labelling of palm oil.

This issue is one of basic rights as people and as Australians, to know what I am spending my money on and what I am putting in my body. In Medicine, we are reminded everyday about the need to respect the autonomy of the patients that come in to seek advice from the doctors. The issue of autonomy has become so important that you cannot pick up an ethical or a legal textbook without a chapter on autonomy in it. So why is it that as a doctor I have to be so incredibly careful to disclose all relevant information to the patient, for fear of taking away their utterly important right to self govern, yet I cannot self govern what goes on into my body and where my money is being spent.

I believe that the labelling of Palm Oil is a necessary step to uphold the rights of all Australians, and not doing so would be plain un-Australian.

Regards,

Kate Stotskaia