

Seamons, Colleen

From: submissions
Subject: FW: Traces of Cannabis in

Dear Staff

Submissions Re: Proposal To Permit Processed Hemp Seeds In Food

It is outrageous to expose the broad public to ingestion of THC, the active ingredient in cannabis, even at comparatively low levels present in processed hemp seeds, which levels your authority already admits, may have the capacity to interfere with readings relating to drug testing, including proposed random drug testing! So, much for these seeds being safe for food! I don't want myself, my children or my grandkids to be subjected to food with THC in it. Even apart from undermining law enforcement, it is an unreasonable health risk. Cannabis is basically a toxic plant. There's no real getting away from that.

As you know, THC is highly fat soluble, and especially lodges in the brain and reproductive organs, all bad news, especially for developing children and teenagers. Essentially, we would be offering the population drug-contaminated food, and at the instigation of a de-registered doctor, Andrew Katelaris (whose loony proposal has been rejected before). His obsession with cannabis in its various guises, borders on the pathological. I find it disturbing that "medical" uses of cannabis have included dispensation to patients with serious illnesses, who cannot afford any gratuitous erosion of their immune systems (there is a wealth of literature and clinical observation about the effects of cannabis).

Cannabis is an anti-emetic (a substance which can stop vomiting) but there are drugs that fit this purpose without the same side-effects as cannabis. Similarly, as far as food goes, I can get essential fatty acids from eating salmon and other foods or supplements.

On the other hand, in the past, Food Standards Australia has fussed about having upper limits to the miniscule amount of replacement vitamins cereal manufacturers, etc put into processed food (which has often had too many vitamins and mineral removed). And it has done nothing to regulate trans-fats in food (in most of Europe, these generally cannot exceed 1 percent of any particular food). It has been known for at least two decades that trans-fats or hydrogenated fats are a significant factor in causing heart disease and depression. With much concern, I note that Food Standards Australia, has done nothing to post warning labels on foods with additives that have been found to affect children's behaviour (Britain has warning labels on a culprit group of food colourings known as the South Hampton Five).

Your job is to see the public has nutritious food, not drugged food! If I want drugs, I can see my local dealer! I am wondering what's wrong with Food Standards Australia that they are so pro-drug and anti nutrition, when they are supposed to be a Food Authority. I note various community or watchdog organizations, along with members of the public, at one time called for the disbandment of the Australian and New Zealand Food Authority because of a similar bias. If Food Standards Australia has the same bias, then it isn't needed either. It is a waste of taxpayer's money and an insult to them that the proposal for processed cannabis seeds in food is even being officially considered. It is a waste of my time too, as a citizen, to have to take the time out to combat ridiculous and reckless proposals by writing a submission.

Yours sincerely

Linda Vij