

Seamons, Colleen

From: Margaret Williams [magrus7@optusnet.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 5 March 2010 5:59 PM
To: submissions
Subject: Submission regarding Proposal P1007-Primary Production & Processing Requirements For Raw Milk Products

Categories: Blue Category

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this from the perspective of a consumer. I firmly believe that Australian Consumers would benefit from a greater range of cheeses and dairy products including those classified as "raw." I already buy organic produce and firmly believe that foods are much healthier when they are "whole foods" and have not been tampered with or refined, etc. As long as the milk is obtained under sanitized conditions, I would much prefer to drink milk "straight from the cow" (i.e. raw), than after being homogenised and pasteurised. I firmly believe that The Proposals greatly exaggerate the risks of raw milk products. From the research I have read, raw milk has an excellent safety record compared to other foods, and even to pasteurised milk.

As a consumer, why should I not have the right to purchase quality products such as raw milk products if I wish to. I think it is wrong to continue to prohibit farm-consumer sales as this is a blatant denial of our rights as consumers. Making healthy choices regarding the food I consume is vitally important to me and I am willing to pay to do this. If Australian raw milk or raw milk cheese was available to buy, I definitely would spend the money to do so. I would also prefer to buy Australian raw milk cheese over an imported equivalent.

It is unfortunate that the Proposals want to continue the current ban on the production and sale of all Category 3 products from raw milk. This will include the sale of raw goat's milk currently allowed in some States and further tighten restrictions on raw drinking milk made from cow's milk. No evidence has been put forward as to a food safety justification of why this should be necessary.

In conclusion, I ask that consumer's rights may be considered under these proposals. Raw milk products are healthy and I would like to purchase them to enhance the health of myself and my family.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Williams

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