


submissions

From: [REDACTED]
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Subject: FSANZ Submission Form Received (Internet) - N/A

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| Code Submission | |
| Application/Proposal Number: | Labelling review recommendation 34 - irradiation labelling |
| Organisation Name: | N/A |
| Organisation Type: | Individual |
| Representing: | N/A |
| Street Address: | [REDACTED] |
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| Submission Text: | <p>SUBMISSION Re: Labelling review recommendation 34 - irradiation labelling Dear FSANZ, I write to you as a young person living in Australia. The future I would like to live is one where I can make informed choices about the food I am purchasing and eating. I would therefore be extremely concerned if mandatory labelling of irradiated food is removed, especially as I do not believe irradiation is a safe practice.</p> <p>Scientific studies have linked irradiation to neurological dysfunction (Duncan et al., 2009), DNA damage (Schubert,</p> |

1969; Hartwig et al., 2007), and cancer through the formation of toxic compounds (Raul et al., 2002; Horvatovich et al., 2002; Knoll, 2006; Hartwig et al., 2007). For example the irradiation of the sugars and acids found in fruit creates furan (Fan, 2005), a carcinogen and liver toxin (Health Canada, 2016). I suspect the cumulative impact of consuming irradiated foods, as indicated by the above studies, has been neglected when considering its safety, with illness emerging later after prolonged exposure. This is similar to the ill health radiologists would experience if exposed to xrays without protection day in day out. Hence the radiologist wears protective clothing and distances themselves from the xray, while the patient is considered safe as they are not exposed to ongoing radiation. Irradiation changes the chemical structure of our food and without proper labelling of irradiated produce, our "fresh" fruit, vegetables and herbs would be mismarketed. I would not purchase irradiated foods and would instead make more effort to grow my own food, the only way I could know for sure it's not irradiated. This would take away business from not only growers and manufactures who use irradiation, but also those who do not. At present I have found there to be little awareness of irradiation amongst my networks. I myself only heard of the practice from a farmer I recently worked for who was a cancer survivor and believed irradiation contributed to her illness. I have never seen a label in the shops here. I vaguely recognise the Radura symbol from

somewhere, though at the time I thought it meant the product is healthy and green. It is a very misleading symbol. The labelling standards for irradiation need to be improved not removed. If the food, ingredient or component of the food has been irradiated, an individual sticker or label containing the words "irradiated" or "treated with irradiation" should be placed ON the product. I would also like to see restaurant meals containing irradiated ingredients labelled, and regular inspections by environmental or occupational health and safety officers to retailers to ensure labelling requirements are followed through. Positive statements of irradiation should not be permitted unless the risks are also disclosed. I am keen to hear back from you about this important issue and work with you towards the safety and labelling of our food.

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