

Seamons, Colleen

From: Sarah Nicholson [sarah@nicho.id.au]
Sent: Friday, 12 February 2010 12:38 PM
To: submissions
Subject: Submission regarding Proposal P1007 - Primary Production & Processing Requirements For Raw Milk Products

To FSANZ

My name is Sarah Nicholson, I am a mother of two, and both my son and I regularly consume raw milk and raw milk products which I make at home, like many parents I know who believe in the fundamental nutritional benefits of real food as opposed to what you consider 'safe' food which our digestion does not tolerate. We want the opportunity to enjoy a complete range of raw milk cheese as well as purchase raw milk in a safe and legal manner. I am also a local chapter leader of the Weston A Price Foundation, and regularly have enquiries from people who are seeking access to such products or information on the safe and nutritious use of them, and I think FSANZ should be working with us to ensure that correct use of these products is taught and taught well.

Firstly, I do not understand why raw milk cheese has been categorised with raw milk production and processing, they should be considered separately because the risks and controls are clearly different. If all cheese could be moved into Category 2, then FSANZ should consider raw milk as a separate case.

Secondly, I am very alarmed at the manner in which the information I have read in this proposal exaggerates the risks of raw milk products. Raw milk is very safe, especially when purchased from certified producers and not 'Farmer Joe down the road' (but to be honest we are so confident about raw milk that we often do get raw milk from 'Farmer Joe down the road ') and I might add here that I am also a member of the Australian Breastfeeding Association who openly teach the therapeutic uses of breastmilk (which is essentially raw milk) such as applying to skin for rashes, cuts and so on as well as using in eyes and noses for cleaning conjunctivitis or mucus build up. On this point, I would also like to add that we have used both my own breastmilk and raw cows milk with a neighbour's daughter who has terrible conjunctivitis and blocked tear ducts and was at her wits end with medical methods and it cleared up the infection. How this can be considered unsafe or undesirable is beyond me!

Thirdly, your proposals do not address changes to Australian microbiological food standards which are currently outdated and outrageous compared with scientific studies and standards applied in overseas countries. It is so unfair that overseas consumers have access to these important foods and we don't.

Fourthly, the latest proposals will continue the current ban on the production and sale of all Category 3 products from raw milk. This will include the sale of raw goats' 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. It is already difficult enough for us to get raw milk, and we fear that this proposal will actually make it harder. We have pursued the proposal and made submissions in the hope of it actually making things better for us, and now it seems it may make it worse, which is entirely unfair of FSANZ.

Finally, the proposals clearly continue to prohibit farm-to-consumer sales and this is a blatant denial of our rights as consumers. Have FSANZ ever actually thought about the fact that the children of farmers, who regularly consume foods directly from the farms they live on, are some of the healthiest and brightest children in Australia? Why are those of us who are not blessed to have land or crops or beasts denied the right to access these nutritious products? And why are farmers denied the right to sell their produce to whoever they choose?

We look forward to hearing of further developments on this proposal and hope and pray that FSANZ will consider seriously the voice of those of us who actually care about and understand what it is that we are putting in our mouths!

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