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**From:** Daniel Mendes  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 July 2015 11:14 AM  
**To:** Economics, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** Third party certification of food

Hello

I wish to make a submission for the inquiry into Third party certification of food.

I feel that food companies have gotten too carried away with third party certification. My main concern that I wish to disclose is Halal Certification.

Halal represents a blessing from Allah. This is an offence to other religions who have a need to consume a product deemed blessed by a false God. This is considered an offence to Atheists as well.

In my view, too many companies are paying to have their produce and products halal certified, a lot of people feel that they are only accommodating the needs for people of Islam and not the rest of the consumers.

Various religions, including Islam, can say a pray over their foods to make it acceptable for consumption, therefore no halal certification is needed.

If after reading a label for it's ingredients, food is considered haram, then the Islamic people can do as we do and not purchase the product.

Australians are disgusted with the treatment of halal slaughtered animals, we would like the rights of animals to be greater than the law of Islam regarding halal.

Australia has very high world standards for the killing and preparation of slaughtered meat and all meat in Australia should only be prepared this way.

We ask these Australian standards be upheld and not replaced by religious ideals.

The RSPCA has concerns over the treatment of these animals as well

Halal certifiers pay a zakat tax to mosques, mosques give money to organisations that world media have linked to extreme Islamic organisations like ISIS, Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood, there are many more.

Australians should not be funding terrorism in any form.

We see this as a forced Islamic tax - period

There is nothing in the Qur'an that says foods need to be 'certified' as Halal.

Allah doesn't say to label food so you don't get confused.

We feel we are being forced to pay and the Australian Government should be looking after ALL of it's people, not just a minority group, it's unethical.

We also do believe prices on products have increased because of halal, forcing the Australian consumer to pay more and causing more difficulties for lower income workers.

Some costs are reported to be as high as \$30,000 a month. Of course this is being passed onto the consumer.

There are suspicious reports of companies being forced to pay the certification.

Our freedom of choice has been taken away from us.

Some manufactures hide or do not display any symbols or logos giving no freedom of choice to the consumer.

This is misleading and needs investigation by ACCC and other Government departments.

This threat to our way of life will be here sooner than we think.

It is a money making scheme that funds the building of more mosques and Islamic schools in Australia.

Australians do not want to be funding any more mosques or Islamic schools that further erode our way of life.

We are against the extremely high percentage of meat being labeled Halal, this denies non Muslim Australians the right to free choice.

We are left to just buying pork products.

Halal has gone beyond non consumables including, pet food, cosmetics, toothpaste, holidays, finance, mouthwash, plastic containers, women's personal hygienic products, there may be more.

This has gotten way out of hand.

It is being imposed on ALL Australians at this point in time.

Part of entry into our great country is to integrate into the Australian way of life.

How about our own government stand up for Australian values and ensure integration not segregation occurs.

This is what I feel needs to change as a result of this inquiry:

Labels must be placed on food if it:

- is the product of a religious ritual
  - is produced by a person specifically employed because of their religious belief
  - is religiously certified and certification fees are paid to fund religious programs.
- Food producers who produce food that is automatically halal (like bread and water) should not be required to pay certification fees to state this.
- Religious food certification authorities should be registered.
- Religious food certification authorities should be required to disclose their standards, fees

and financial records.

A proper inquiry should be established to examine a number of other issues in relation to halal certification other than food labelling issues.

Thank you