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Sent: Friday, 15 May 2015 5:57 PM
To: Economics, Committee (SEN)
Subject: halal certifications

To whom it may concern.

I am an immigrant who came to this country almost 20 years ago. I am also a Christian who practice her faith and I am devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ. I have been studying the bible for 30 years. I have also been studying Islam for the past 5 years. Bible teach us that Baal was the moon god, considered an idol to Jews and Christians alike and it was forbidden to them (us) to eat any food dedicated to him. The history of Islam tells us that Allah , even before Islam came around 600 years after Christ, was worshipped by pagans as the moon god... and that is where the Islamic moon crest logo came from. It is very clear to me that even thou there is only one true God, there are many false idols (gods) and Allah is one of them. Muslims are entitled to believe whatever they want. But you cannot force "sharia law" on the rest of the citizens of this democratic country. When you find yourself doing your grocery shopping, as a Christian you want to avoid purchasing any item that has been dedicated to an idol (like in the case of meat.. when as part of the ritual slaughter of the animal, it is pray upon by a Muslim imam) or products that pay certification fees destined to the hands of people of one particular religion. I find it very deceiving, unfair and discriminatory the fact that the money pay towards Islamic certifications contribute Exclusively to the advancement of ONE IDEOLOGY (thru islamic only charities) opposed to mine while people from every other religion are paying for it at the cashier. I believe that there are many secular people that call themselves "Christians" of "Hindus" or "atheist" and they might not mind such discrimination committed against them in the name of "tolerance". But I can assure you that it is very offensive for practicing religious Australians. There must be a clear separation of religion and government. What would happen if all of the sudden Christians will slaughter the animals dedicating it to Jehovah and will not label it accordingly?. I'm pretty sure that you would have antidiscrimination law suits everywhere... specially by the hands of Muslims who will feel "marginalized". Islamic scriptures talk about the case presented to Mohamed when they INVADED tribes and territories. People were given tree options: 1-convert to Islam, 2-not to convert to Islam but pay a high tax called jitzia (which was the main source of income for Mohamed's people) . 3- die. So when people brought their taxes in the form of goods or supplies , such as meat... Mohamed's followers where concerned about the meat not being killed halal. Mohamed told them to simply pray over it before eating it and that makes it halal. Halal certification came around in the 80's.. what did muslims eat before that?... they use to do what Mohamed told them to do.. pray. Why vegemite needs halal certification, when all along is halal by nature?. Can muslims read labels like any regular person that have food allergies ?. This is a scam forced upon us by the Islamic world movement. And

apparently we were very quick to bow down to an idol instead of upholding the values that are the foundation upon which this country has been build.

Yours sincerely,
Paula Cianciarulo.