

AUSFTA
Submission No: 210

Catholic Women's League Australia-New South Wales Inc

ABN 27 783 418 042



RECEIVED
25 MAY 2004

BY:

State President: Mrs Carmel Keys

State Secretary: Ms Denise Dunphy

State Treasurer: Miss Winifred Behrend

State WUCWO: Mrs Patricia Morrissey

"Prophetic Women"

The Chairperson
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express concern about the US Free Trade Agreement because it may not be in the public interest for Australia to sign. It may result in increased costs for Australians in areas such as prescription medication and copyright and there may be other costs involved in meeting the standards imposed in other areas such as education, post, media, energy and environment services. It is not clear how food labeling and quarantine would be affected, but phasing out of some tariffs such as those on clothing and motor vehicles could result in Australians losing jobs. The FTA could lessen Australian rights to set policies and prices. People are unconvinced that "full market access" will bring us any benefits in return because certain agricultural products have been excluded or will be phased in.

Please consider the social impact of signing an agreement when citizens have such major anxieties.

Yours sincerely

A M J Rolfe
13 May 2004