

Senate Standing Committee's On Economics
PO BOX 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Phone:- 612 6277 3540
Fax:- 612 6277 5719

Economics.sen@aph.gov.au

RE: HALAL CERTIFICATION

Thank you for taking the time to peruse my submission.

Halal certification imposed on the vast majority of daily grocery items has resulted in feelings of dishonor of my values, opinions, as an Australian. Feelings of submission and vulnerability as an individual from what I thought was a democratic society hence concerns for the countries future that I live in.

Halal means “permissible” in Arabic. This does not mean “permissible” to Christians. Islam commands Muslims to eat only halal. I am an Australian Citizen and of Christian faith.

The above mentioned feelings I have expressed has raised such concern that I contacted my pastor at my local church. As quoted to me under my faith is as follows. “In my humble opinion to you in this time of need is that if the food you eat causes you to sin, you should not eat it”. My response as quoted to my pastor as follows. “YES, IT DOES CAUSE ME TO SIN AND FEEL SIN. 95% of the products we consume and purchase are now all halal certified.” Unfortunately the pastor could not guide me any further.

As a result I am left feeling like a minority and choice has been stripped as a consumer. Try to feed a family halal free now choosing strongly as my right NOT to participate in products that have been certified through a religious ideology that my Christian faith and personal beliefs do not condone.

As quoted on the Halal Certification Authority Website, it states that more Muslim governments are making more demands for halal certification. It does not end there. Will our Government adhere to the Muslim governments demands for Sharia Law next? What were they eating before the high demand? What possible gain is so highly sought after by Australia that we could have lived quite happy and successful without? Why did it have to change like this and at this severity?

Halal certification has links to “Taqiya” The concept of “Hiyal”, legalistic deception practiced not necessarily in a religious context but to gain political and legalistic advantage. In other defined terms, perception deception.

Halal certification is indirectly contributing to the domination of Islam within Australia and globally.

A percentage of “Zakat” must go towards “jihad”. Zakat is a form of obligatory religious tax in Islam. If halal tax contributes to zakat, the collected amounts which is 2.5% of a Muslims total income goes to zakat collectors, new converts to Islam, to Islamic clergy, and to those fighting for Islamic causes. It is one of the five pillars of Islam and is considered a tax. I wonder if ”zakat” has any relation to the halal certification fee’s imposed to companies and consumers?

Halal certification profits, which I assume in this booming sector would be of high figures, go towards charities which in turn funds Islamic mosques, Muslim schools and defending jihad, hence terrorism.

Islam deems all other religions and ideologies as inferior and are not tolerated once Islam gains control and majority status. Halal certification plays an important role here.

Islam has proven to promote dominance and strength through deception, intimidation, threat, violence. Halal certification therefore plays a role here.

Why should I be made to contribute to an Islamic religious food tax (which I’m sure companies paying for the certification cover within the product pricing) when I do not want halal food and is against my beliefs and faith?

When discussing Halal slaughter in animals, this is a whole new debate. To slaughter an animal by reciting the words “Allah is the greatest” appalls me. Not only for the well-being of the animal but again for my faith and beliefs, Australian values and my conscience.

I will admit to you that I can not call myself an Australian and feel ill to think that I am eating meat that was sacrificed this way, regardless of the demand for it in other countries.

We are NOT living in biblical times. We are living in the year 2015 where technology and humane practices can be carried out. There is no reason to ensure to me therefore that halal practices need to be carried out to ensure that the meat is “clean” and “pure” as Islam dictate it to be. We should not move backwards-we should move forward.

This is the same for all products which are now halal certified. Our code of practice in manufacturing food is at high Australian standards and I do not see why therefore halal certification is imposed on all of us. These feelings will not go away. If companies wish to manufacture products as halal certified and incur the fees associated with it, perhaps they can contribute to food manufacture for those who do not wish to participate?

Failure to provide a choice of non halal food in Australia holds discrimination. Halal certification on almost everything I purchase not only has affected me, but 98% of Australians and we only ask for some respect and freedom of choice. I have a choice to what car I drive, which I can vote for in an election, what clothes I wear and what industry I wish to work in, so why can't I have the choice to choose what food I buy? It would not be a problem if the choice was there, but it has become very difficult.

Our food manufacture industry is changing, having to hire Muslim workers and clerics to carry out halal practices which raises costs of the product and could lead to potentially jeopardizing Australian jobs.

Australians DO NOT want halal food. We do not want to participate in it and we should not be made too either.

I am sure Australia can manage without this halal certification. Perhaps we should not think about our "hip pockets" as the primary focus and focus about the future of Australians without having to submit to a certification they do not adhere too.

It is promising that an investigation is taking place into halal certification; however Australians simply do not want it at all.

This halal certification racket needs to stop. If you allow part of the religion of Islam through halal certification, what is to say you will then spread into and allow Sharia Law? With Islam you can't pick and choose.

Discussing halal certification brings unsettling and disturbing emotions.

If I was asked to go into detail about how disturbing it really is I would respond by saying that forcing me to submit to halal certification (and yes the word force is correct with limited option) on the majority of grocery items, I would say that my government has failed me in this respect. I have been raped and violated and stripped naked of my faith and my freedom of consumer choice. I scream "NO NO NO" but no one cares to hear me. I am ignored and regarded as a bigot. I have therefore no choice left than to suffer and feel like a criminal instead of the victim.

PAST

” What was Australia doing before the Halal Certification became so demanding?

PRESENT

”Why are we being made subject and forced into a religious ideology?

FUTURE

- One could only assume having done independent research of the Muslim Agenda.
- Sharia Law will dominate in Australia.

I wish you well with your enquiries into investigating Halal Certification and hopefully justice will prevail.

Leanne Davies.