

Halal Certification

Australian domestic Halal Certification is a scam and must be government controlled. It has nothing to do with religion, it is financially discriminating in nature to all Muslim and NON-Muslim Australians.

Everything from mouthwash, toothpaste, cosmetics, food, bathroom items, even plastic containers, are all halal certified (not to mention even Easter Eggs).

What was once limited to meat slaughter has now crept into all products associated with day to day life, including non-food items.

Opportunistic moneymen have identified a gap in the market where we are primed for exploitation.

Australia's best known household brands are among hundreds of food items, now funding halal certification schemes to the benefit of an Islamic agenda and personal wealth by fortune hunters.

The Government is also losing income in company tax, and very few certifiers pay tax as it is claimed to be a religious related income.

The controversial certification fee has become a local and global industry upsetting both non-Muslim consumers and devoutly religious Muslims, who are dismayed and angered that unscrupulous moneymen are profiting from misrepresenting Islamic teachings.

There is no single halal certifying body in Australia, as there is in other countries. Our largest Islamic neighbour Indonesia has only one. Here there is a growing list of 33 certifying outfits all with varying motives, from expanding Islam to expanding private bank accounts. They madly compete with each other in a growing turf war. The end consumer (and beleaguered taxpayer) bankrolls it all.

Consumer law has unquestionably been breached. The push should be on to regulate an unregulated national scam.

Halal is an Arabic word meaning 'permissible' or 'lawful'. The opposite of halal is haram, which means unlawful or prohibited. It is not required in any Islamic teachings, nor is it in Sharia law, that a fee be paid to ensure food is halal. In fact almost everything is already halal, and with very few exceptions.

Halal food was lawfully mandated for Muslims for good health between the 5th and 10th Century when Islam was founded. There were no refrigerators, preservatives or health department regulations or inspectors. Halal was a guide to food cleanliness. Being Muslim is a way of life from worship, (Sharia) law, (holy) war, to politics and eating. It's a holistic ideology. Eating is simply a part of this faith. Although eating halal foods is the pursuit of Muslims, certification fees are not part of Islamic teachings. Many Muslims say their religion has been exploited to make profits for greedy individuals.

Muslim scholars are dismayed at the exploitation of their faith posting online excerpts from the Qur'an showing there is no need to certify food as 'halal', because most food is already halal.

Halal certification is no longer about what's permissible for Muslims, but is now about branding and stamping by Islamic certifiers for the benefit of the certifiers. Everybody pays a cost uplift on food at checkouts, restaurants and takeaways, both Muslims and non-Muslims. The Government has looked the other way while allowing consumers' rights to be abused. Food hygiene is already strictly regulated and monitored by food and health authorities; therefore halal standard controls should be under the umbrella of our health and food department inspectors (who could permissibly be halal

compliance experts under Islamic law) with one official certifying stamp. Ironically our food preparation standards are already more stringent than in some Islamic countries where street and restaurant food is more susceptible to contamination.

Halal certification has more in common with money and marketing and less to do with Islamic purity. Islamic scholars are calling the act of halal certification 'Bid'ah' (unlawful). Bid'ah in Islam is the innovation, invention, creation, or addition of any religious matter which was not originally found in Islam. For aspects of worship or ritualistic behaviours in Islam there must be something in the Qur'an or the Hadith to explain and confirm its practice. The practice of "halal for cash" is not an Islamic practice, contrary to Islamic texts it is based on the Jewish Kosher certification.

Lawful foods like honey, nuts, grains, milk and yes, even water are all now 'halal certified' with stamps and fees paid, simply to tell Muslims these items are "permissible" when they already know they are. The moneymen are profiting from a fraud, while not producing a thing. It's the ultimate scam, powered by incorrect definitions of religious teachings.

The government must act now before it gets completely out of hand.