-----Original Message-----
From:
Sent: Friday, 15 May 2015 9:01 PM
To: Economics, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Third party certification of food

    I respectively request you receive my submission to the Senator Cory Bernardi inquiry into third party certification scheme as attached below.

Dear Sir/Madam,

    I wish to have my say on the issue of certification of our foods in Australia.

 What I do not understand is, what any religious certification is doing on any food item in this country. Australia is a mix of many religions and atheistic beliefs, it is also against most genuine religious and non-religious beliefs to eat food that is sacrificed or halal certified or allowing the funds from this food certification to be used to finance false idols (God) or any religion conversions.

    I find it discriminating that we have absolutely no free and easy way of identifying any goods processed in any special religious ways and have had to completely change my shopping items and even go without the some favorites because there is none that is made by non-religiously certified producers. My shopping cost has also increased because the companies producing these specially prepared products have had to pay for certification.

My family are among hundreds of thousands of Australians who have gone to extraordinary measures to ensure we are not contributing financially to any religious institution who demands that food be certified for their followers and all others to eat.

    I believe the need for certifies to religiously certify food needs to optional to the producer, done at no cost to the producer or consumer ,obvious the consumer .
  There should be equality of food for all people regardless of religious identification.   If producers want to say their food abides by particular religious laws then they should be free to say so without paying for certification.
    All labeling must be applied to the item to state any religious certification so those that who do not want it are not duped into buying it, as is the current standards for such certification at the moment.
  Today many religiously certified items are not labelled as such or the label is hidden in inside the packaging which is my biggest concern .
    I require that any certification is done in such a way that it is openly and very plainly obvious.

    If for export reasons food has to be compliant with certain religious laws, then this should be a user pays system and the certification done for free. Any certification should be done by the Australian Federal Government , not by private individuals who charge for the certification putting the funds to their own personal or there religious development usages.
    This food should not be combined with any non-religious food

because of possibility of contamination for those that are atheist or of a different
religious denomination that cannot consume the religiously prepared/ certified food.

I believe that with a few simple changes everyone can get what they want out of the
certification of food items without any additional cost. There is no need / reason for
one religion to be placed above any other like what is being done at the moment with
Islam and halal certification.

My comments are not racially based, as we are talking about religious certification, not race.

All Australian product actually produced in Australia should be required to say so loudly and clearly, with
those with Australian content saying so and in what percentage form, with other country inputs also shown in
remaining percentage forms.

Thank you for your time in reading this submission.

Paul Galea.