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National review of food label law & policy - Australia

Heather Yeatman
University of Wollongong, hyeatman@uow.edu.au

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Abstract
Australia is the first country in the world to undertake a complete review of food label law and policy. This independent Review Panel is charged with examining current policies, standards and laws relevant to food labelling; the policy drivers impacting on demands for food labelling; and the policies and mechanisms that are needed to ensure that government plays its optimum role. Particular areas of nutrition focus include health claims and front of pack labelling. The genesis of the review was Australian governments’ commitment to regulatory reform to create a seamless national economy, reduce the regulatory burden, and maintain or increase the competitiveness of Australian businesses. This was to occur without compromising public health and safety. Two rounds of public comment have been received. The first round included over 6000 general submissions from industry, community organisations, government agencies and individuals. In the second round, comment was sought on a range of questions posed in an Issues Paper prepared by the Review Panel. These submissions, together with published evidence from the literature and empirical research form the basis of the Review Panel’s recommendations to government. This paper positions public health nutrition concerns within this comprehensive review of food label law and policy. Considerations include the role of the food label to effectively communicate with consumers and their ever increasing expectations, while juggling the national and international requirements of industry, Codex, WHO, food safety, developments in technology and challenges of environmental, water and fuel constraints.

Keywords
policy, australia, law, national, label, food, review

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Mandatory warning labels on food products (i.e. messages that have to be included on the package) represent an increasingly important measure to protect the population against health hazards from intake of foods. To assess if the use of warning labels is an effective measure we need to know more about how consumers view and use warning labels on food. Quantitative and qualitative data were used to explore Norwegian consumers' views, understandings and use of warning labels on food, and if warning labels on food are an appropriate measure for food safety. A web survey (N=1001; 15-87 years) was carried out to investigate consumers' views of warning labels of food and their perceptions of food safety and responsibility. Two focus groups were conducted to get information on consumers' understanding of warning labels on food in everyday practice, dilemmas and responsibility. In addition, a stakeholder meeting was arranged to get wider input on consumer views on warning labelling. The results show that Norwegian consumers have little knowledge and awareness about warning labels (except for certain established warnings). The consumers did not voice very clear opinions, not even stakeholders. There was a focus on needs of particularly vulnerable groups (allergy, children), but scepticism about warning labels on food products in general by larger groups on an everyday basis. Norwegian consumers seem to view warning labels as an extension of what other consumers do and as providing better transparency and accountability. Based on the current study it is not possible to conclude whether consumers have on the use of warning labels on food as a form of food regulation as an alternative measure to banning hazardous substances in food.

CONFIRMATION OF PROBIOTICS PRESENCE OF THE GENUS BIFIDOBACTERIUM IN FOOD AND SUPPLEMENTS


INTRODUCTION. In last years have been developed products that contain probiotics, especially Bifidobacterium genus. In Mexico there are no commercialized products that not always specify the species and lactic acid bacteria that they contain. OBJECTIVE: To assess the Bifidobacterium genus in probiotic foods and supplements, as well the species and subspecies of the probiotic, comparing the results set with information labels. METHODOLOGY. Dairy drinks were analyzed in powder and supplements that declare in its labels to contain Bifidobacterium. The crops isolated (apr MRS, they incubated 37 ° C for 48 hours in conditions of anaerobiosis. DNA was extracted by kit DNAzol and mean extraction by