

Seamons, Colleen

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To: submissions
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SUBMISSION

As a mother who is concerned with providing the best possible nutrition to my family, I try to follow the principles of a healthy, whole-food, unprocessed diet. Having spent a fair amount of time looking into the subject, I believe that unpasteurised milk products are superior to pasteurised ones, and I wish to have the right as an informed consumer to make that choice for myself and my family.

My children currently drink raw goat's milk, and are doing very well on it. Unfortunately I do not like the taste of it and would like to have the option of accessing raw cow's milk in the same way. I believe that milk produced from cows being farmed in a natural and responsible way (preferably organically and possibly bio-dynamically) should be of a standard suitable for safe human consumption. Obviously, though, I would like raw cow's milk (and associated products such as cheese and yoghurt) to be subject to scrutiny and regular testing in the same way as all milk produced for retail sale, as long as the standards set are reasonable and fair.

Milk produced in this way will presumably be more expensive and mainly be available in specialised outlets such as health food shops and organic shops, but consumers who are convinced of the benefits of such milk will happily pay the price. Those who do not wish to purchase raw milk will continue to buy cheaper pasteurised milk. In other words, noone is likely to unwittingly purchase unpasteurised milk, but those who wish to do so will truly appreciate the opportunity.

Similarly, only farmers who are committed to a certain style of farming will be interested in producing milk for this market. In a modern country such as Australia, where farming practices and hygiene standards from the farm to the shop can be maintained at the highest level, it ought to be possible to determine and regulate a standard that allows these farmers and consumers to trade legally in safe, healthy raw milk, with peace of mind on all sides.

I urge you to work towards allowing consumers to be able to exercise their right to choose for themselves whether or not to drink safe and healthy raw milk.

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