



JENNY BLOXHAM MP

SPOKESPERSON FOR ACC, INTERNAL AFFAIRS
HEALTH, LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
WELLINGTON

TEL (04) 470 6686

FAX (04) 490 9108

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SOY - MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS ...

A briefing today for MP's from overseas representatives of the SOY International Advisory Board raised more questions than provided answers," according to New Zealand First Health Spokesperson, Jenny Bloxham.

"The promotion of Soy as a health product brings it under stricter guidelines than those which apply to foods," Jenny Bloxham said. "New Zealand's Code of Health and Disability clearly defines consumers' rights and this includes the right to know what is in any product they use.

"In the USA, where over half of Soy crops are genetically modified, Soy has not been submitted to the Food and Drug Administration for approval. Further, the Representatives admitted it would be impossible to separate modified Soy in food and liquid products from that which is unmodified.

"It is likely therefore, that many Soy products sold in New Zealand supermarkets and used in processed foods would not meet health guidelines and should be removed from sale.

"It is outrageous that Soy-based products which are so freely available, are being openly promoted as having health benefits which are untested and in some cases, such as infant milk, have been under serious question.

"The Minister is charged with protecting public health. Where a food item is being publicly promoted as having specific health benefits, he has a duty to ensure users are not being exposed to increased risks," said Jenny Bloxham.

ENDS

Contact: Jenny Bloxham 021 545 022
jenny.bloxham@parliament.govt.nz