

Is anybody listening?

How sick do our children have to become before parents, government and multi nationals do something about it? I feel like I'm banging my head against a brick wall trying to get the message through – *kids need to grow their own nutritious food for their health, starting at school.*



"Diseases of the elderly continue to be visited upon younger & younger people. The generation being born today, for the first time in American history, is predicted to have a shorter life expectancy than their parents.

Children are the age group with the fastest rate increase in cancer.

The reality is that it has been sanitation, safety & modern shelter that accounts for the gains in life expectancy. The current generation's problem is not genetic. It is the lack of nutrition. Nutrition is the building block of every body, organ, tissue & cell. It is the foundation of the immune & repair system. It is the essence of our physical life".

Dr Arden Andersen Medical Practitioner, and soil scientist. Extract from Acres Magazine 2007.

We ingest approx 4.5 litres of pesticides & herbicides a year, 2 kgs of additives ... 66 kgs of sugar. Infertility is 1 in 6 couples – if kids live long enough to produce grandchildren for us! And of course there is the much talked about obesity, mental illness, immune deficiency, heart disease, diabetes – how many more diseases do our children need to have before people take action?

Kids are eating food not even made from nature – it's made in laboratories, stored in jars, plastic and cardboard and has a very long shelf life – that is not living food. Food comes to us from all over the world; grapes from USA, carrots from Belgium, green beans from China. Is this what we call fresh food?! Why aren't we growing our own food?

Edible school gardens sound like a sensible idea? I need your help, I have made appointments with all politicians in the area (Peter Wellington has already taken my projects to Parliament Nov '06, seeking funding for essential educational programs, and trying to convince them this is an important issue. I need lots of people to write letters, phone, visit their MP's – whatever you can think of. We have got to change what our kids are eating before they become statistics! We need real funding to set up Permaculture edible gardens in all Queensland Schools. And get our kids into eating real *living* food again, for their health.

In "Jamie's School Lunches", UK celebrity chef Jamie Oliver was single-handedly responsible for changing the future for English school kids. He realised that the standard school lunch of nuggets and chips was not right, so he embarked upon a mission to change things. He fought hard to introduce wholesome food with stir-fried vegetables etc into the lunch program. After 12 months, working with 4000 kids, they found that the people in the school who were hired specifically to administer ritalin, antidepressants and asthma medication were literally no longer needed. Similar amazing results were achieved in a school in Wisconsin, where the coke machines and junk food dispensers were thrown out and replaced with wholesome school lunches.

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