

Rory Robertson  
18 May 2016

## Highlighting seven points on Charles Perkins Centre's *Australian Paradox* fraud

Dear Members of the Academic Board (and a range of observers including journalists),

<http://sydney.edu.au/ab/about/members.shtml>

Good morning. I hope you are well. I have written to members of the Board several times over recent years about the lack of competence and integrity surrounding the Charles Perkins Centre's *Australian Paradox* research.

Having had little obvious effect on your thinking so far, I hope to make it easier for you to understand the main issues in this growing scandal. Here are seven key points:

**Point 1.** A recent ABC *Lateline* investigation televised several senior scientists confirming that the infamous *Australian Paradox* "finding" is false: <http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2015/s4442720.htm>

**Point 2.** The false *Australian Paradox* "finding" was published only because "peer review" was a sham. That is, no-one competent read the paper before it was published. Readers, is there any other explanation for the fact that the "peer reviewed" paper is littered with errors, large and small, including basic arithmetic errors? <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/quickquizresearch.pdf>

For those of you slaving away trying to get your best work published, why not take it easy? The *Australian Paradox* episode shows us that the easiest way to produce a "peer reviewed" publication is for an influential lead author to operate as the "Guest Editor" of the publishing journal: [http://www.mdpi.com/journal/nutrients/special\\_issues/carbohydrates](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/nutrients/special_issues/carbohydrates)

With such a cosy arrangement in place, error after error, including a reliance on fake data assisting an obviously false conclusion - "an inverse relationship" between sugar consumption and obesity! - need not be a problem. In this case, there were green lights all the way! [This is awkward: "Deadline for manuscript submissions: closed (30 September 2010); Received: 4 March 2011 / Revised: 14 April 2011 / Accepted: 19 April 2011 / Published: 20 April 2011" (see link above)]

**Point 3.** It was dishonest of authors Professor Brand-Miller and Dr Alan Barclay to respond to ABC Radio National's *Background Briefing* debunking - <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/independent-review-finds-issues-with-controversial-sugar-paper/5618490> - of their *Australian Paradox* claims by publishing on 12 February 2014 a [sham] "Correction" on the formal scientific record, [disingenuously] stating that "These changes have no material impact on the conclusions of our paper": <http://www.mdpi.com/2072-6643/6/2/663>

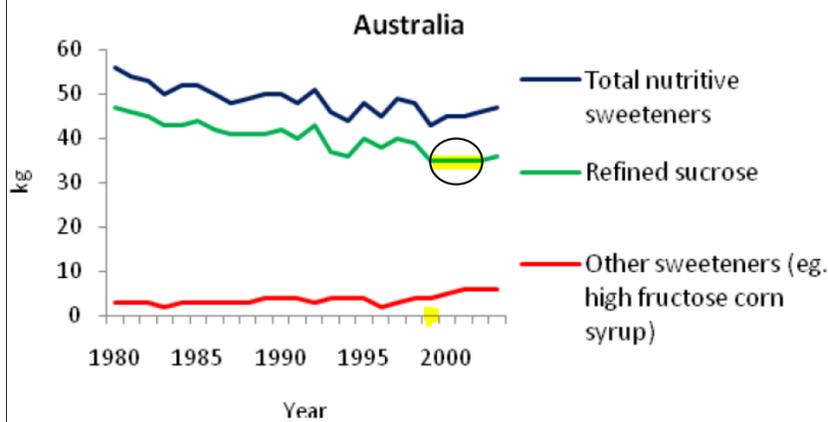
**Point 4.** Moreover, it was blatantly dishonest of authors Professor Brand-Miller and Dr Barclay in 2014 to formally advise research-integrity investigator Professor Robert Clark AO that the FAO's sugar series for Australia is "robust and meaningful": (p. 58 of 86) <http://sydney.edu.au/research/documents/australian-paradox-report-redacted.pdf>

The authors had been advised multiple times that the FAO series involves a sugar series discontinued as unreliable by the Australian Bureau of Statistics after 1998-99, then falsified by the FAO for the early 1990s. Note the conspicuously fake flat line, within a series dead-ending in 2003, that features in the 2011 *Australian Paradox* paper: (reproduced overleaf, and on pp. 21-12 <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/22Slideshowaustraliangoestoparadoxcanberrafinal.pdf> ; <http://www.smh.com.au/national/health/research-causes-stir-over-sugars-role-in-obesity-20120330-1w3e5.html>; <http://www.smh.com.au/business/pesky-economist-wont-let-big-sugar-lie-20120725-22pru.html>

Letter continues on page [8]

## EVIDENCE: Data discontinued as unreliable by ABS after 1998-99, then faked by FAO to 2003

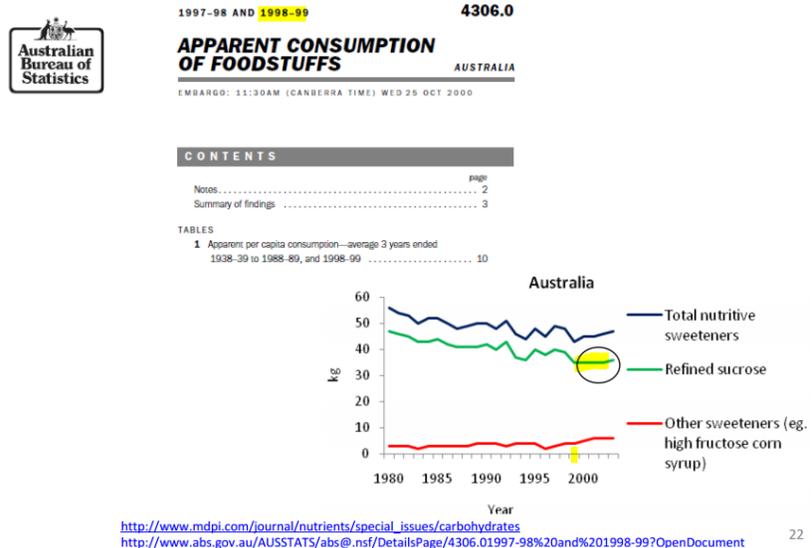
Awkwardly, authors' sucrose – green – series "exists" in 2003 despite underlying dataset discontinued as unreliable by ABS after 1998-99!??



[http://www.mdpi.com/journal/nutrients/special\\_issues/carbohydrates](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/nutrients/special_issues/carbohydrates)  
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4306.01997-98%20and%201998-99?OpenDocument>

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How come professional scientists were unaware - or deliberately didn't say - that key series discontinued by ABS after 1998-99?!!



[http://www.mdpi.com/journal/nutrients/special\\_issues/carbohydrates](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/nutrients/special_issues/carbohydrates)  
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4306.01997-98%20and%201998-99?OpenDocument>

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<http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/22Slideshowaustraliangoestoparadoxcanberrafinal.pdf>

## FAO confirms that it invented conspicuous dead-end flat line, based on nothing real

From: **MorenoGarcia, Gladys (ESS)** <[Gladys.MorenoGarcia@fao.org](mailto:Gladys.MorenoGarcia@fao.org)>  
 Date: Mon, Feb 13, 2012 at 9:43 PM  
 Subject: FW: quick question on basic Australian sugar data  
 To: "strathburnstation@gmail.com" <[strathburnstation@gmail.com](mailto:strathburnstation@gmail.com)>  
 Cc: "Rummukainen, Kari (ESS)" <[Kari.Rummukainen@fao.org](mailto:Kari.Rummukainen@fao.org)>

Dear Rory

The "apparent consumption" or better 'food availability' can be found under Faostat Food Supply or Food Balance Sheet domains up to year 2007.  
 Food supply  
<http://faostat.fao.org/site/345/default.aspx>  
 Food balance sheet  
<http://faostat.fao.org/site/354/default.aspx>

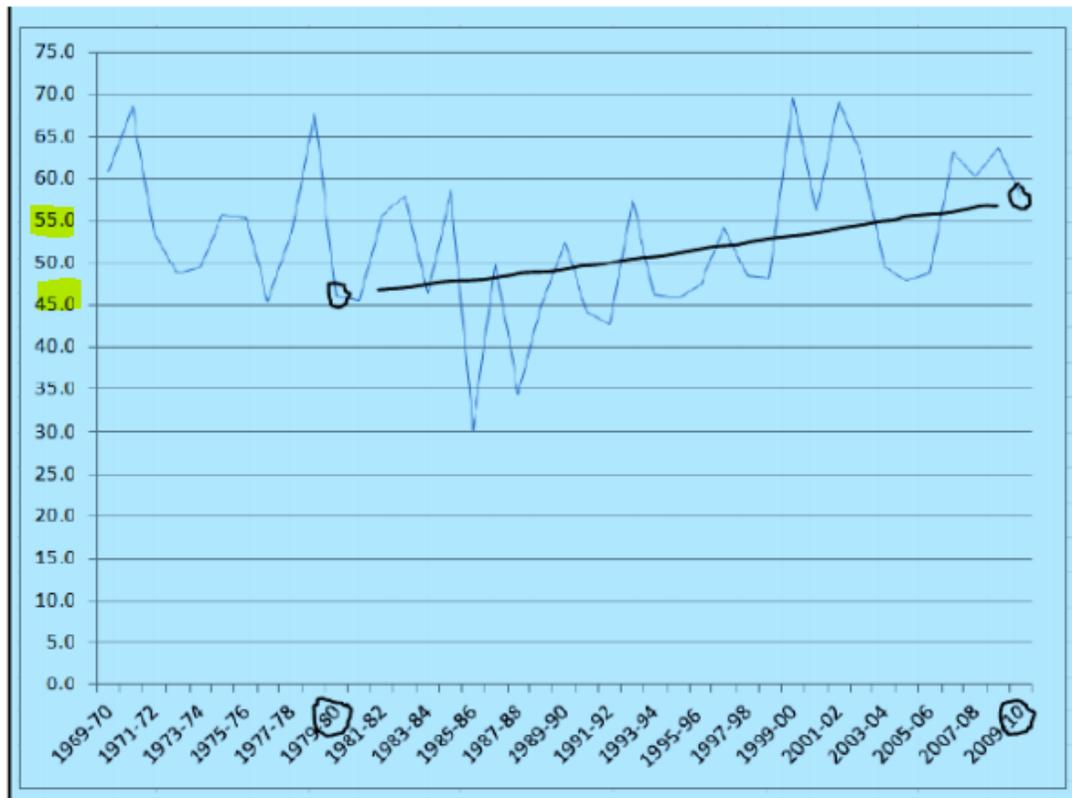
In the case of Australia I have looked at the time series and there is some food of Sugar & syrups nes and Sugar confectionary the biggest amounts are under Refined Sugar where data is with symbol \* but it is calculated with following note:  
 'calc.on 37 kg.per cap. as per last available off. year level (1999)  
 The figure for 1999 and for earlier years come from; ABS - APP. CONS. OF FOODSTUFFS.

Regards  
 Gladys C. Moreno G.  
 Statistician  
 C-428  
 Statistics Division  
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Letter 4 in <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/FAOfalsifiedsugar.pdf>

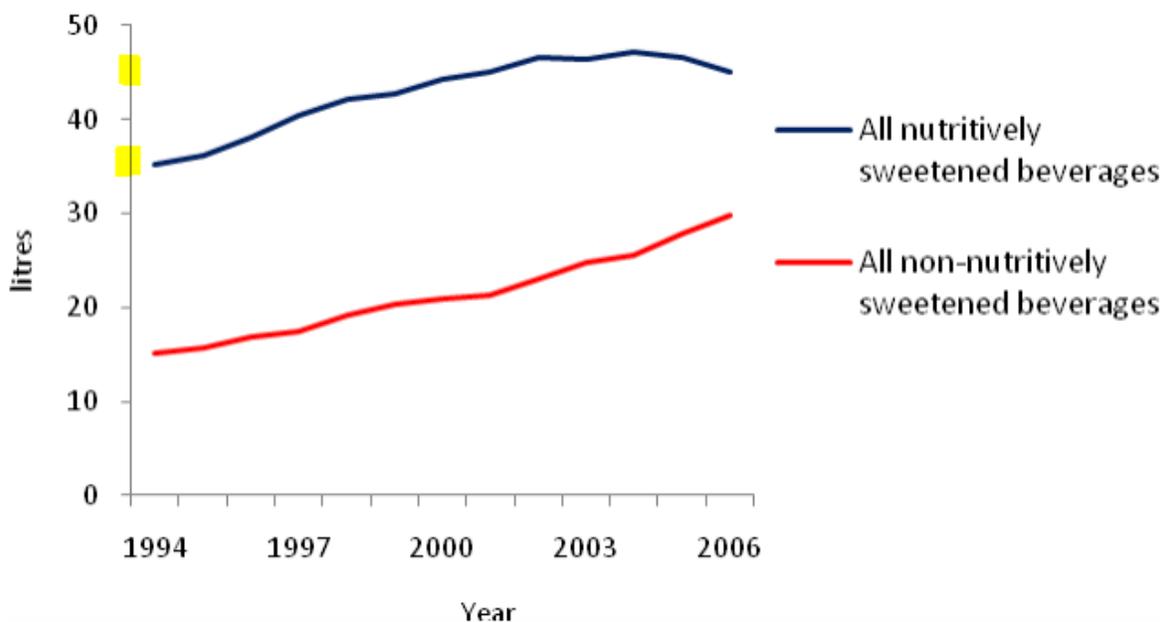
Charles Perkins Centre's graphic evidence of "consistent and substantial decline", 1980-2010

**Figure 1: Australian sugar availability  
(kg per person per year)**



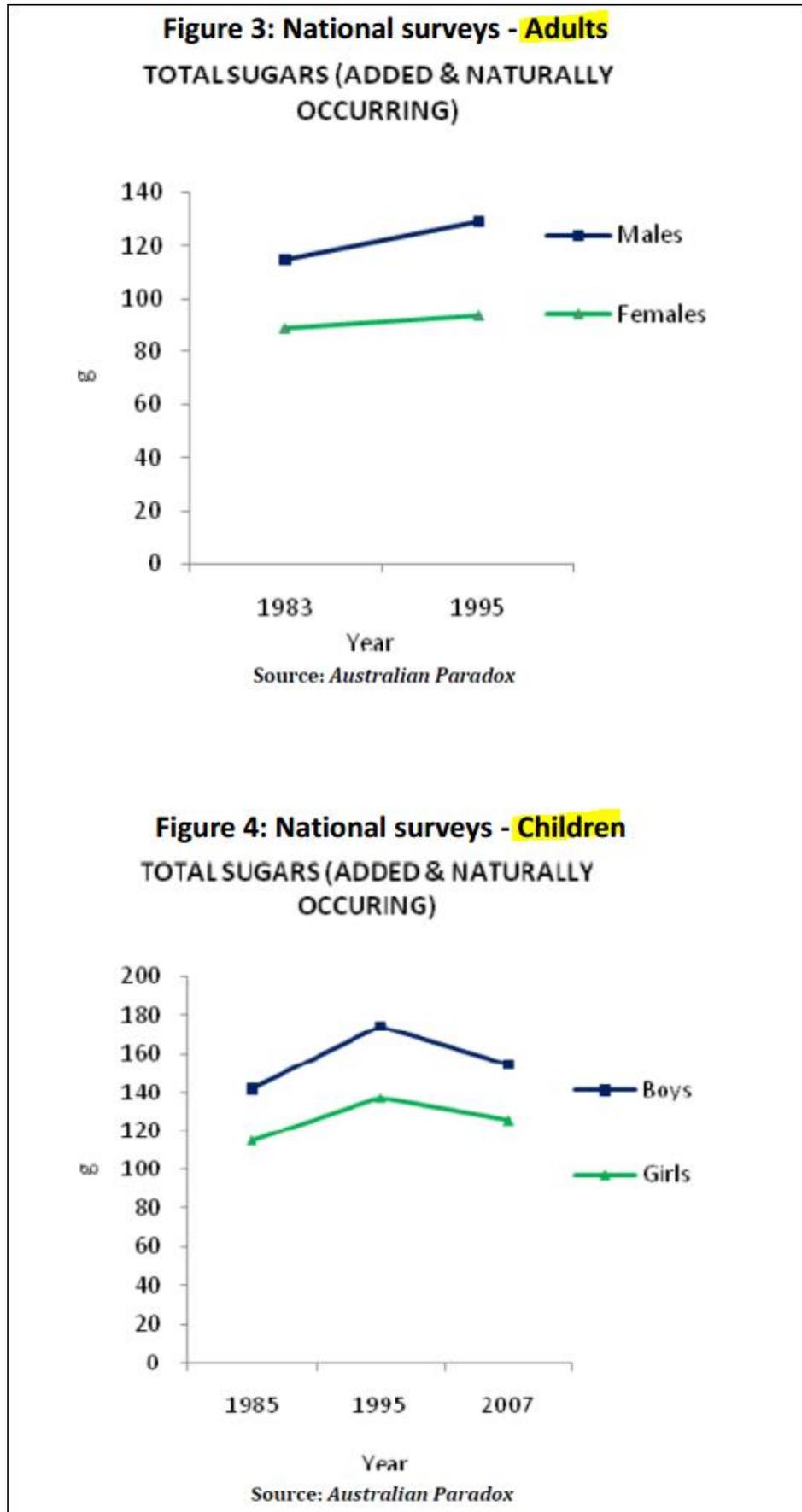
Source: *Australian Paradox Revisited* ; My "trend" for "the past 30 years"

**Figure 2: Australian softdrink sales; Top (dark) line is sugary softdrinks  
(Litres per person per year)**

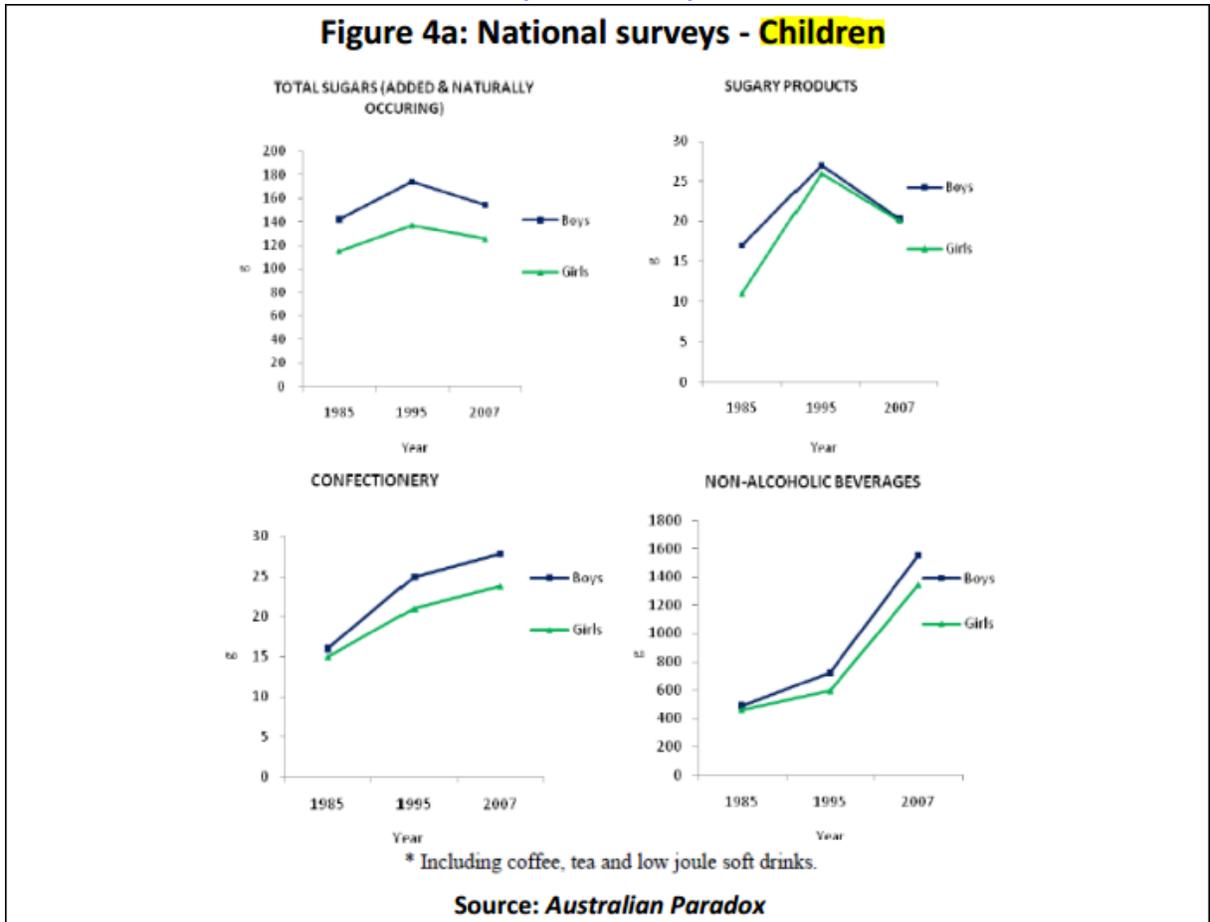


Source: *Australian Paradox*

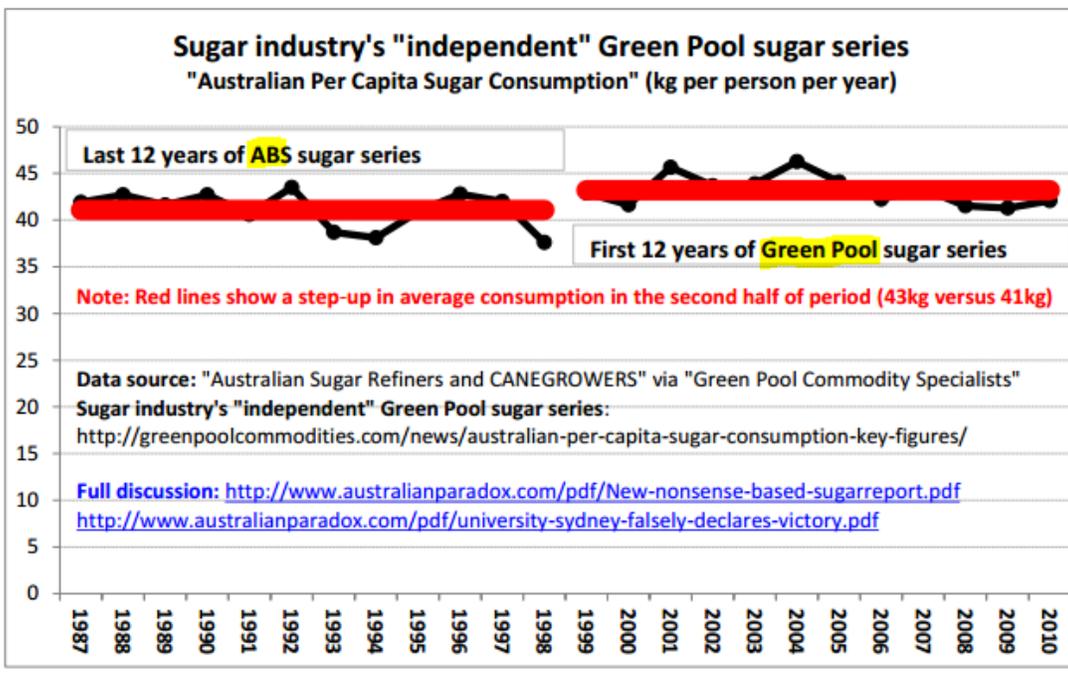
Charles Perkins Centre's graphic evidence of "consistent and substantial decline", 1980-2010  
(continued)



Charles Perkins Centre’s graphic evidence of “consistent and substantial decline”, 1980-2010  
(continued)



**Figure 5: Australian sugar industry’s measure of sugar consumption**



[Added 20 May 2016]

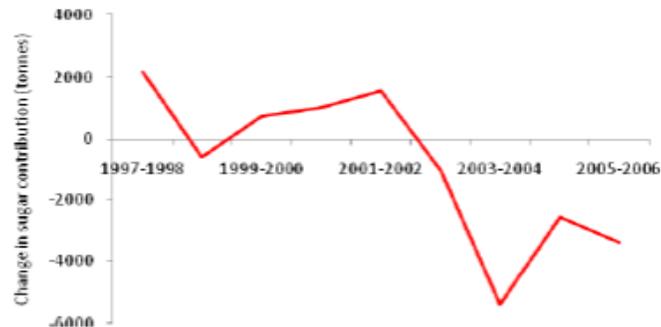
## Charles Perkins Centre's graphic evidence of "consistent and substantial decline" in sugar consumption via sugary softdrinks, 1980-2010

**Figure 6: Annual change in sugar via sugary drinks (tonnes per year)**

Figure 6 shows the annual change in the contribution of sugar from nutritively sweetened carbonated soft drinks (sugar-sweetened soft drinks) to the Australian food supply [30]. Levy and Tapsell [30] reported a concurrent increase in sugar from other nutritively sweetened beverages (e.g., sports drinks, flavored waters and iced teas). However, the increase in sugar contribution to the food supply from these beverages did not contribute enough volume to match the decline in nutritively sweetened carbonated soft drinks. Overall, there was a decrease in sugar contribution from nutritively sweetened carbonated soft drinks to the Australian food supply, amounting to 12,402 tons (~~-600~~ g per person per year, Figure 6) from 2002 to 2006.

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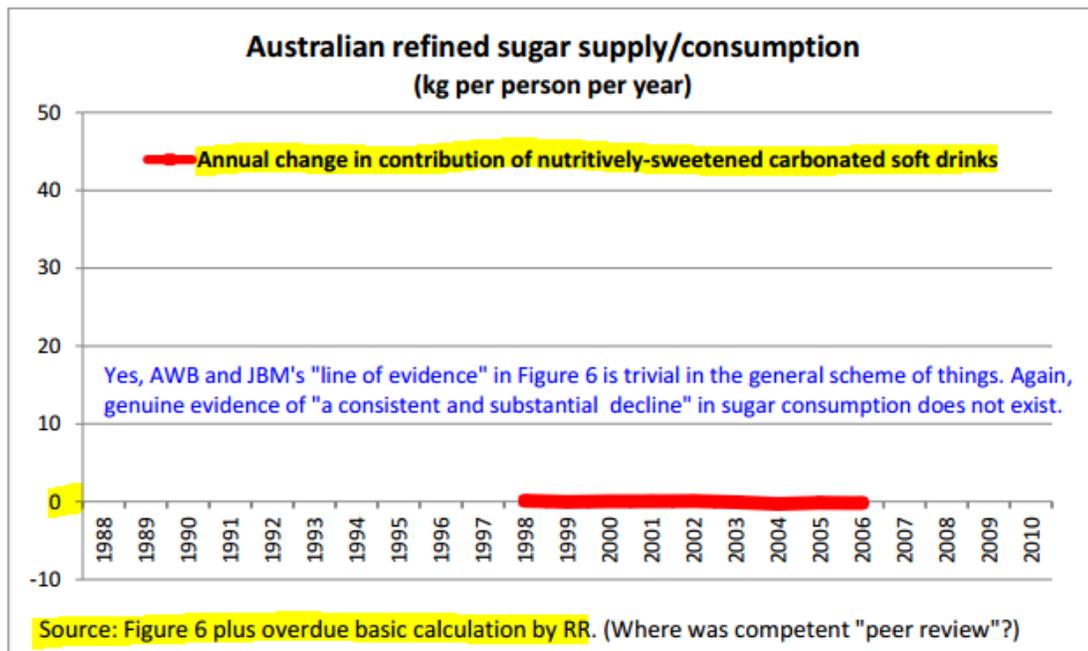
Figure 6. Annual change in contribution of nutritively-sweetened carbonated soft drinks to total added sugar in the Australian food supply [30].



Source: Australian Paradox

**Figure 6a: Annual change in sugar via sugary drinks (kg per person per year)**

(Calculated by multiplying readings in Figure 6 by 1000, then dividing by our ~20,000,000 population)



[Australian Paradox fraud falsely exonerates sugar as innocent]

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## Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion says sugary soft drinks 'killing the population' in remote communities

By political reporter Anna Henderson  
Posted 12 Feb 2016, 2:07pm

**In the wake of this week's progress report on Closing the Gap, the Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion has declared sugary soft drinks are "killing the population" in remote Indigenous communities.**

According to evidence provided to Senate estimates today, at least 1.1 million litres of so-called "full sugar" soft drink was sold in remote community stores last financial year.

"I think particularly in remote communities and very remote communities sugar is just killing the population," Senator Scullion said.



**PHOTO:** The Closing the Gap report said the worst health outcomes, in terms of diabetes, heart disease and other chronic illnesses were found in remote communities.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-12/scullion-says-sugar-is-killing-remote-communities/7162974>



The University of Sydney's Jennie Brand-Miller and Bill Shrapnel with a variety of foods, some more nutritious than others, that all contain sugar. Picture: Jane Dempster Source: The Australian

**BILL Shrapnel was not amused. He'd logged on to the National Health and Medical Research Council's website a few weeks ago and read the draft dietary guideline recommendations.**

"My reaction was that the NHMRC is supposed to be the bastion of evidence-based nutrition," recalls Shrapnel, consultant dietitian and deputy chairman of the **University of Sydney Nutrition Research Foundation**. "But their dietary work is still laced with the dogma that diminishes our profession."

What raised Shrapnel's ire was the word sugars in recommendation No 3: "Limit intake of foods and drinks containing saturated and trans fats; added salt; added sugars; and alcohol!". **Limit sugars? "Show us the evidence," he says. "There isn't any."**

**"It doesn't actually do any direct harm to the human body.** It doesn't raise blood cholesterol or raise blood pressure or cause cancer," says Brand-Miller, known for her book The Low GI Diet. The GI stands for glycemic index, a measure of the effects of carbohydrates on blood sugar levels.

According to Brand-Miller, these findings sit neatly with data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, national dietary surveys and industry. **"Australians have been eating less and less sugar, and rates of obesity have been increasing,"** she says.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/health-science/a-spoonful-of-sugar-is-not-so-bad/story-e6fgr8y6-1226090126776>

A key part of the *Australian Paradox* fraud involves Professor Brand-Miller and Dr Barclay pretending there is [nothing wrong with] self-publishing "findings" on the scientific record based on obviously fake data. As I explained on *Background Briefing*:

"There is this extraordinary and remarkable flat line which has never been discussed, and what we know for sure is that flat lines are rare in nature, flat lines therefore are rare in scientific observations of nature. Scientific observations of animals, humans and plants don't happen to be flat lines. **If you see a flat line, that is a red flag that something is wrong.**" <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/2014-02-09/5239418#transcript>

Readers, how many of you have self-published work on the scientific record that relies on obviously fake data?

**Point 5.** Unfortunately, the Academic Board's **Initial Inquiry** was a sham, wrong on 5 of 7 of its "Preliminary Findings of Fact": <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/RR-response-to-inquiry-report.pdf>

Outrageously, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Jill Trehwella combined with her hand-picked independent investigator, Professor Robert Clark AO, and **either inadvertently or deliberately "buried" my clear and detailed evidence** that the *Australian Paradox* paper features fake data - including a conspicuously fake flat line - in the 1999-2003 period.

Here's how they did it: "**Statements made by the Complainant [me] alleging that the United Nations FAO has falsified data are serious, and do not appear to be based on detailed evidence or inquiry**": p.

21 <http://sydney.edu.au/research/documents/australian-paradox-report-redacted.pdf>

And yet **my detailed evidence continues to hide in plain sight (p. 2 above)**, with Professor Trehwella and Professor Clark having been shown exactly where it is: pp. 3-4 <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/Go8Chair-academicfreedom.pdf>

**Point 6.** Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence and the Academic Board were advised in detail in 2014 of all these **problems**: <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/Letter-Academic-Board-Inquiry-Report.pdf>

The fact that Dr Spence and the Academic Board chose to do nothing to fix these problems - **with Dr Spence recently explaining that he prioritises academic freedom over excellence in research** - is a disgrace:

<http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/Go8Chair-academicfreedom.pdf>

**Point 7.** Professor Brand-Miller and Dr Barclay since 2014 have **dishonestly pretended that someone asked them to "update" their *Australian Paradox* paper**: <http://sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=13780>

In fact, they were advised by Professor Robert Clark AO to re-write their paper to properly reflect the underlying data problems that I have highlighted: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/independent-review-finds-issues-with-controversial-sugar-paper/5618490>

The paper has not been re-written. Instead, **Professor Brand-Miller chose in 2015 to assist the sugar industry** to use her [*Australian Paradox*] study to pretend that sugar is fine in modern doses: (see the Charles Perkins Centre mention at the base of the link) <http://www.srasanz.org/sras/news-media-faq/sras-articlesdo-carbohydrates-cause-weight-gain/>; ("Added sugar consumption declining...") <http://australianbeverages.org/for-consumers/soft-drink-tax-answer/>

## **To be credible, Academic Board members must prioritise integrity in research, and public health**

So, where are we left? Well, as I wrote last week, the University of Sydney and the Group of Eight - which Dr Spence also heads - are **defrauding taxpayers on a massive scale**: <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/USyd-Go8-fraud.pdf>

Accordingly, Academic Board members who believe in the importance of competence and integrity in "peer reviewed" research need to stand up to Vice-Chancellor Spence and throw out the new, shonky University of Sydney research standards he has introduced.

You need to ask: Why has Vice-Chancellor Spence abandoned the University of Sydney's hard-won reputation for

competence and integrity? And what - given the obvious costs - are the benefits of the Academic Board continuing to support the **extraordinarily faulty Charles Perkins Centre "science" that is helping to kill in the remote communities Charlie fought to protect?** <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-12/scullion-says-sugar-is-killing-remote-communities/7162974>

Beyond the *Australian Paradox* fraud recklessly exaggerating the evidence for "an inverse relationship" between sugar and obesity, the **Charles Perkins Centre's Glycemic Index school** operates a business that exists in part to collect revenue by **promoting products up to 99.4% sugar as health-foods:** <http://www.foodpolitics.com/2016/03/sugar-in-australia-its-better-for-you/> ; <http://www.gisymbol.com/csr-logicane-sugar/>

Further, the Charles Perkins Centre's Glycemic Index school has sold more than 4 million pop-sci diet books, many making the **reckless false claim that there is "absolute consensus" that added sugar does not cause type 2 diabetes:** <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/diabetes.pdf>

Again, I write "reckless" because it has been **well-documented - in widely used medical texts - for maybe 100 years** that **excess sugar [100% carbohydrate] and other carbohydrates are the main cause of type 2 diabetes:** (1923 text) <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/1923-Medicine-Textbook.pdf>

Again, **high-sugar diets and the predictable type 2 diabetes that follows are causing early death** for many of those living in the sorts of remote places that Charlie Perkins loved [not to mention the misery and early death promoted over the rest of the Australian population]: pp. 12-15 <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/obesitysummit.pdf>

**Members of the Academic Board, I'm asking you all again, please, to start to fix this academic disgrace and menace to public health, by insisting on the formal retraction of the extraordinarily faulty *Australian Paradox* paper.**

When public health is being compromised and fake data are involved, it is **usual scientific practice to formally retract** obviously erroneous results from the scientific record. As noted in my recent letter to the Senior Executive Group, formal retractions are flowing at a rate of about two per business day: [pp. 6-7] <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/Harmful-misconduct-Charles-Perkins-Centre.pdf>

Thanks for your time. Of course, if you think anything I have written on the *Australian Paradox* scandal is factually incorrect or otherwise unreasonable, I stand ready to respond properly to your concerns.

Best wishes,  
Rory

**rory robertson**  
**economist and former-fattie**  
<https://twitter.com/OzParadoxdotcom>

ABC TV *Lateline* re *Australian Paradox* scandal: <http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2015/s4442720.htm>

RR on how FAO faked Australian sugar data - and early days of USyd incompetence morphing into blatant scientific fraud - via ABC Radio National: (from minute 19:00) [http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2014/02/bbg\\_20140209\\_0805.mp3](http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2014/02/bbg_20140209_0805.mp3) ; <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/2014-02-09/5239418> ; <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/FAOfalsifiedsugar.pdf>

Letter to USyd requesting formal retraction of Charles Perkins Centre's *Australian Paradox* paper: <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/Harmful-misconduct-Charles-Perkins-Centre.pdf>

Want to stop trends in your family and friends towards obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease and various cancers? Stop eating and drinking sugar: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDaYa0AB8TQ&feature=youtu.be> ; <http://www.peterbrukner.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/All-you-need-to-know-about-LCHF1.pdf>

**Evidence from 26 doctors on why low-carbohydrate, high-fat (LCHF) diets MUST become standard treatment for obesity and type 2 diabetes (aka metabolic syndrome):** <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0899900714003323>

**A life in our times: Vale Alexander “Sandy” Robertson (1933-2015):** <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/AlecRobertson-born2oct33.pdf>

**Comments, criticisms, questions, compliments, whatever welcome at** [strathburnstation@gmail.com](mailto:strathburnstation@gmail.com)

[www.strathburn.com](http://www.strathburn.com)

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## **Sent: Academic Board**

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## **CC'ed: Senior Executive Group of University of Sydney**

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