

Rory Robertson
9 May 2016

Letter re scientific fraud at Sydney University, taxpayers defrauded by Group of Eight

On 9 May 2016, at 8:03 AM, rory robertson <strathburnstation@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear University of Sydney Senior Executive Group, management of the Group of Eight, and a range of observers including journalists,

http://sydney.edu.au/senior_executive_group/about/membership/
<https://go8.edu.au/page/go8-board>

I received no reply, so ahead of this week's formal SEG meeting, and discussions in the Group of Eight, I am writing to inquire whether Dr Michael Spence - currently Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney and Chair of the Group of Eight - is responding properly to my latest letter (21 April) on the *Australian Paradox* scandal.

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

To recap, my observation is that the University of Sydney is actively supporting scientific misconduct, and defrauding taxpayers in the process.

1. Should the Group of Eight be in the business of defrauding taxpayers?

In this matter, Dr Michael Spence has explained that his main priority is "academic freedom" (p. 1 in link above), ignoring the traditional need for competence and integrity in "peer reviewed" research, not to mention in formal university inquiries.

Among other things, I think it is unreasonable for Dr Spence to pretend it is of no importance that the University of Sydney's *Initial Inquiry Report* blatantly "**disappeared**" my detailed evidence **[in charts overleaf]**, thus "finding" no research misconduct! (pp. 2-3 in the link above)

Academic freedom is a worthy notion, I agree, but Group of Eight marketing over recent years - used to drain billions of dollars from taxpayers - promised the rest of us "excellence" in research.

For example, the following Go8 marketing document contains some 14 uses of the word "excellence": <https://go8.edu.au/sites/default/files/docs/role-importanceofresearchunis.pdf>

In particular, it claims: "...the research intensive universities are critical. The way in which they operate ensures the highest possible standards of performance across a broad range of disciplines and helps set national standards of excellence".

Sorry, but as a taxpayer who took those promises of "excellence" seriously, I am concerned that the Group of Eight is in the process of defrauding taxpayers on a massive scale.

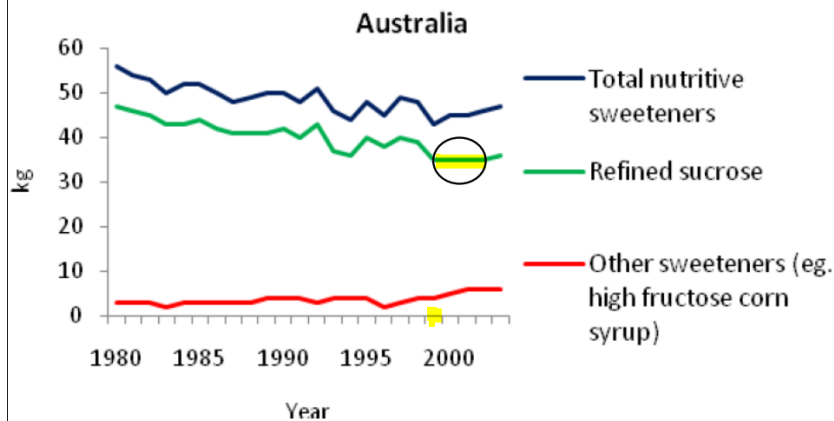
2. Dr Spence's retraction policy is an unusual invention, out-of-sync with standard practice

My second concern is that hiding behind "academic freedom" to support faulty, pro-sugar Go8 research is reckless, given that the influential *Australian Paradox* misinformation - used by industry to claim that sugar in modern doses is not a problem - is **helping to kill innocent Australians**: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-12/scullion-says-sugar-is-killing-remote-communities/7162974> ; <http://www.srasanz.org/sras/news-media-faq/sras-articles/do-carbohydrates-cause-weight-gain/> ; <http://australianbeverages.org/for-consumers/soft-drink-tax-answer/>

Letter continues on page 7

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

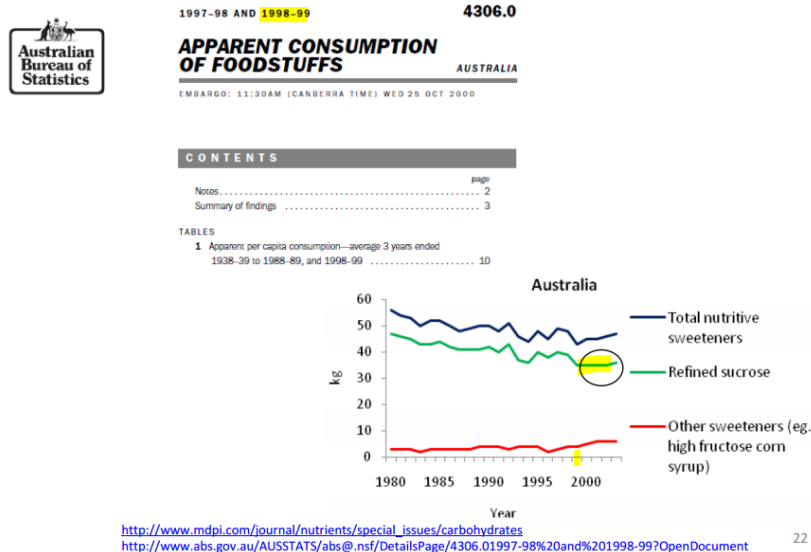
Awkwardly, authors' sucrose – green – series "exists" in 2003 despite underlying dataset discontinued as unreliable by ABS after 1998-99!?



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

21

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.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4306.01997-98%20and%201998-99?OpenDocument>

22

<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>

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>

Cc: "Rummukainen, Kari (ESS)" <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

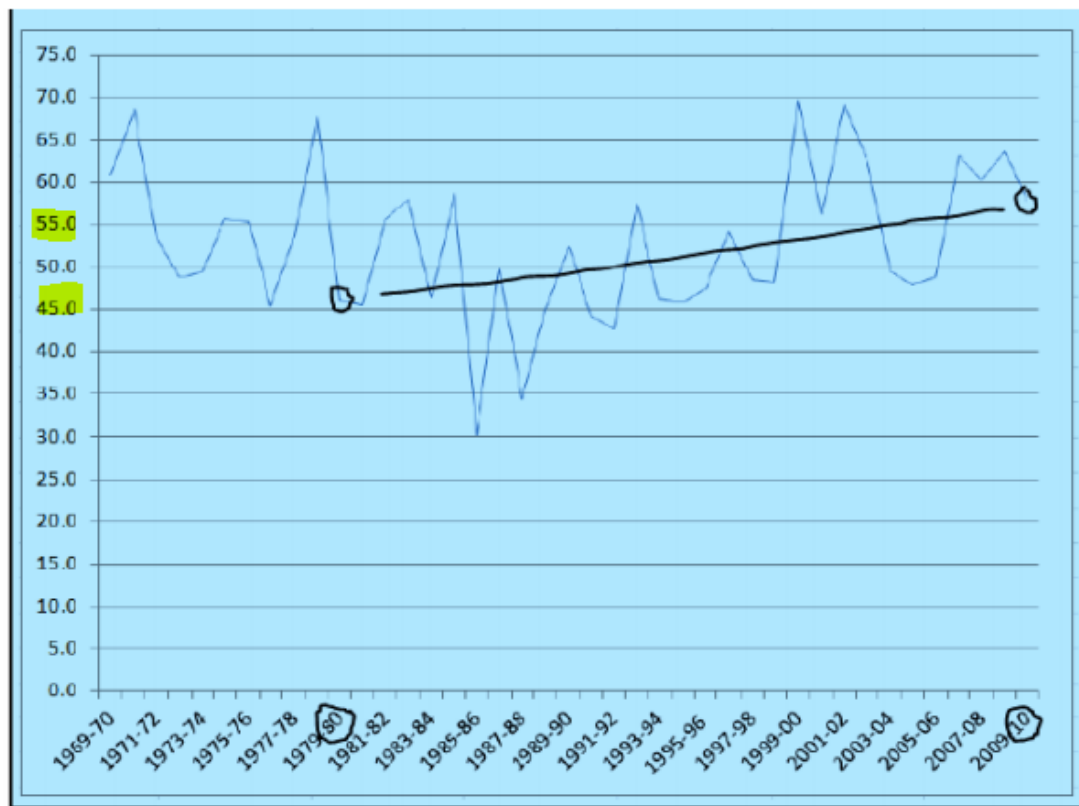
Statistics Division

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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

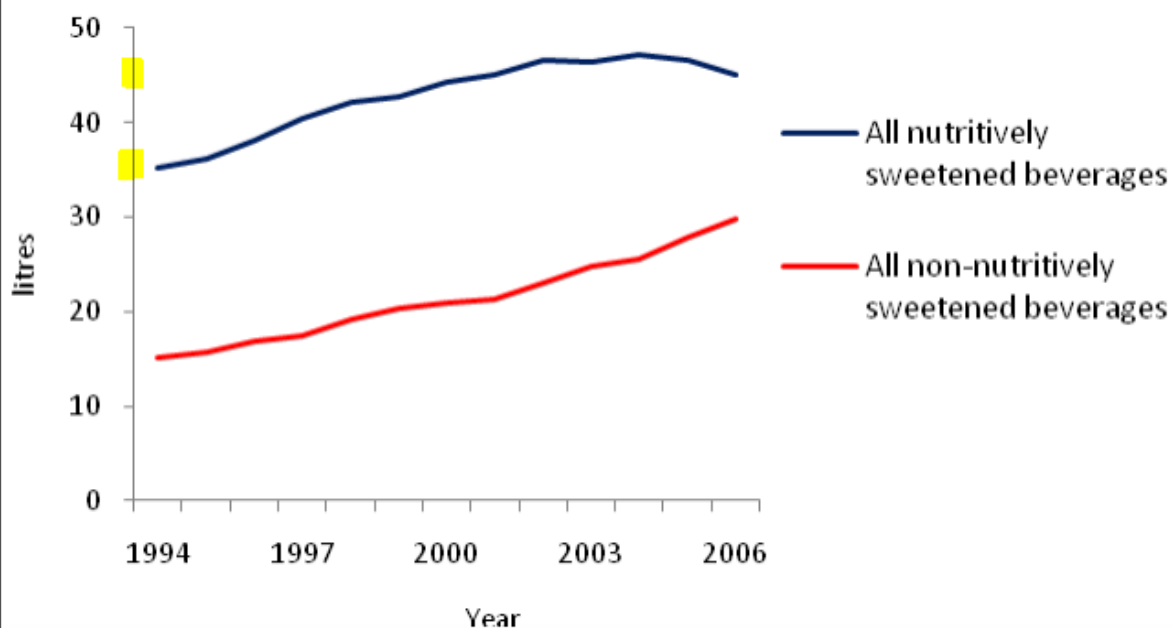
Charles Perkins Centre's graphic evidence of "consistent and substantial decline", 1980-2010

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



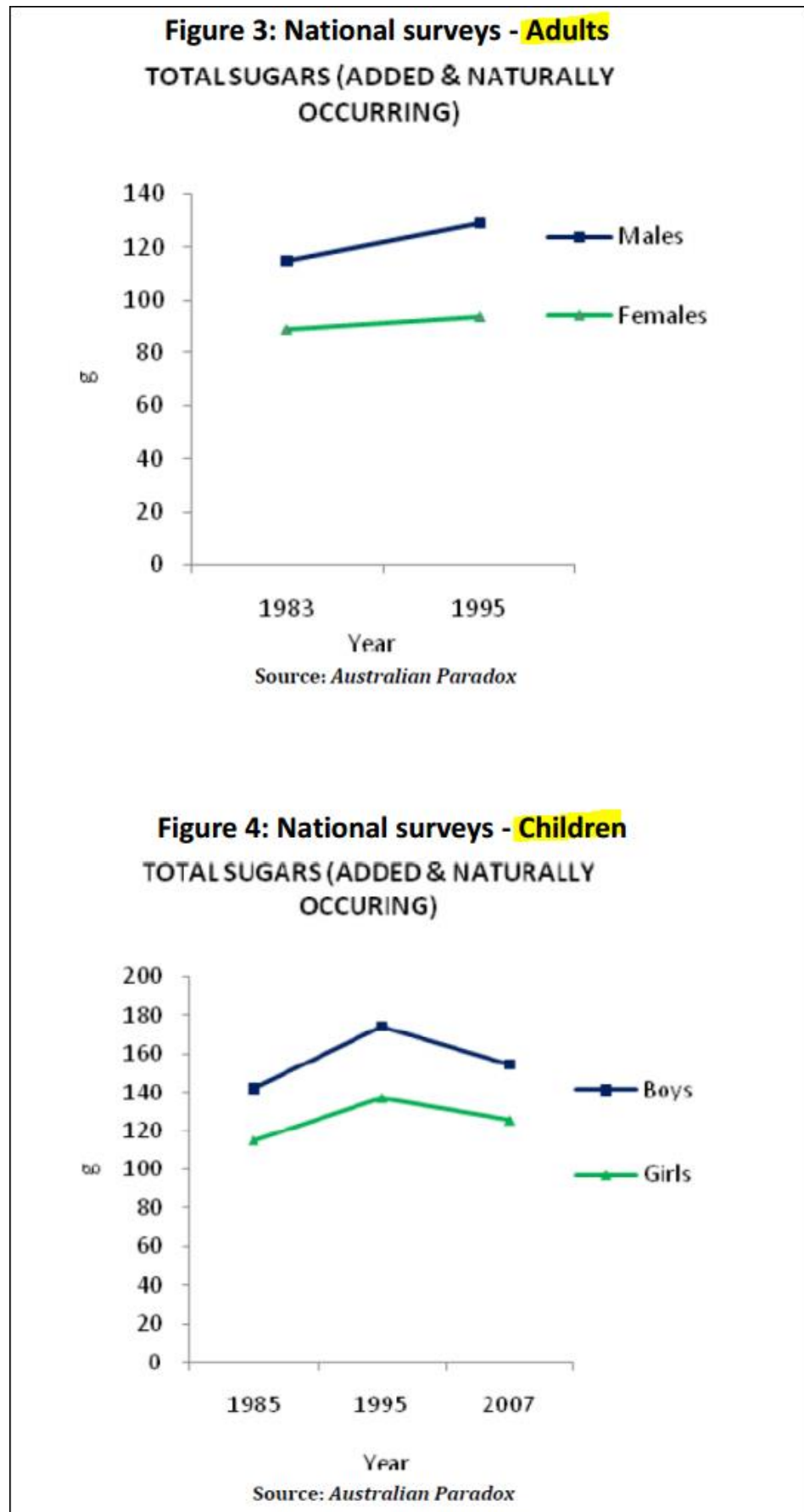
Source: *Australian Paradox Revisited* ; My "trend" for "the past 30 years"

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



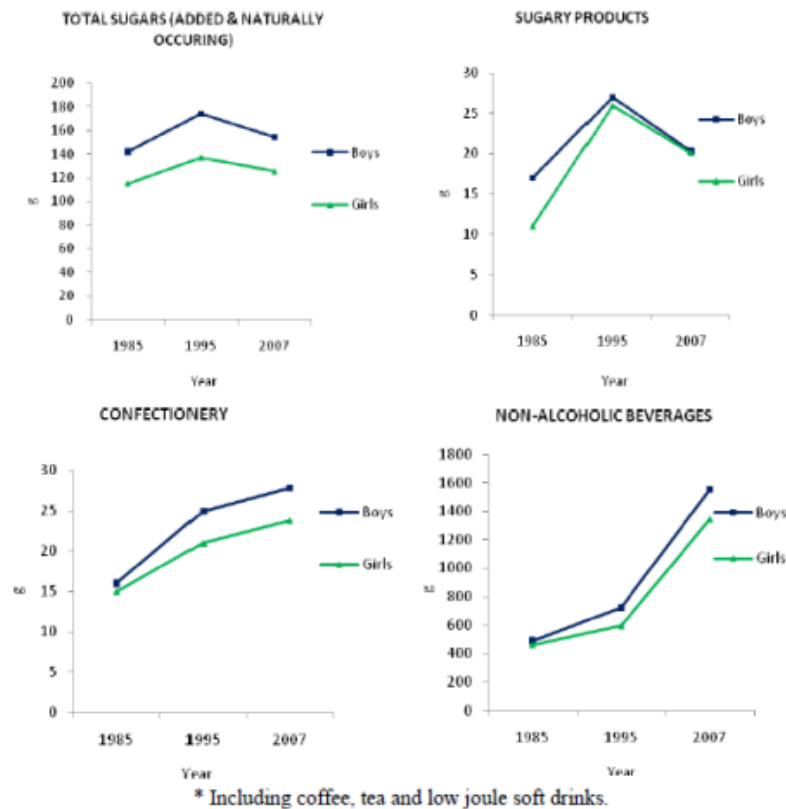
Source: *Australian Paradox*

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



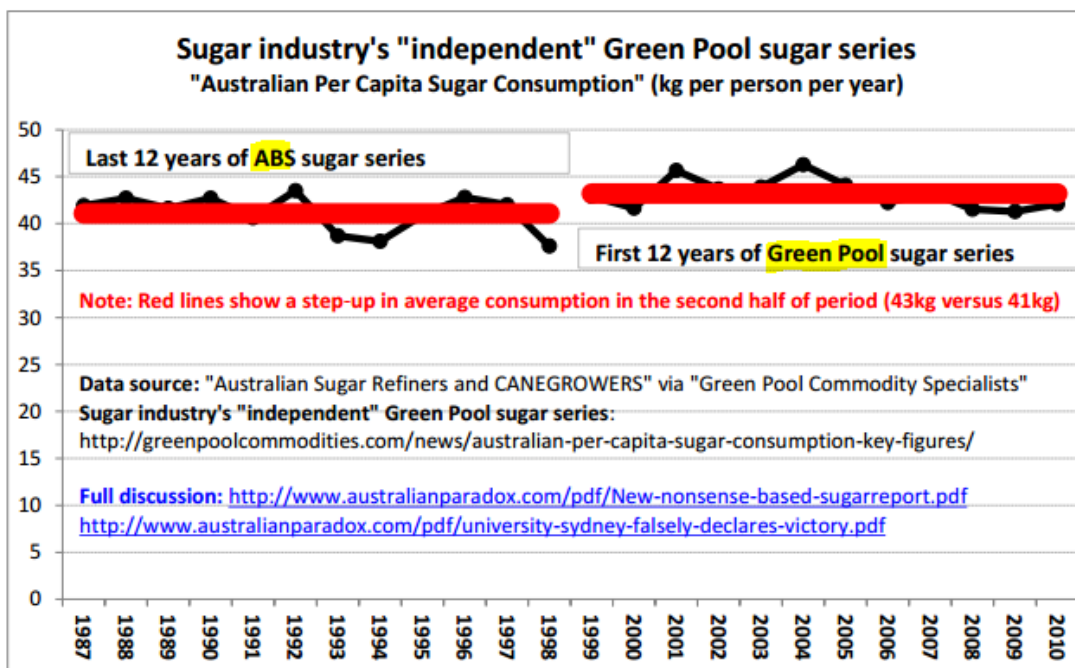
Charles Perkins Centre's graphic evidence of "consistent and substantial decline", 1980-2010
(continued)

Figure 4a: National surveys - Children



Source: Australian Paradox

Figure 5: Australian sugar industry's measure of sugar consumption



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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-e6frg8y6-1226090126776>

Again, the obvious solution is the formal retraction of the extraordinarily faulty "peer reviewed" paper: <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/Harmful-misconduct-Charles-Perkins-Centre.pdf>

Unfortunately, Dr Spence appears to be unaware how science is supposed to work, unaware that the formal retraction of false "findings" - especially harmful false claims - from the scientific record is commonplace, pretty much standard practice.

As a matter of fact, formal retractions in recent times have been flowing at a rate of **500 or more a year, or roughly two per business day**: <http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/38743/title/Top-10-Retractions-of-2013/>

Importantly, many retracted papers involve honest mistakes and/or persistent incompetence, not academic or criminal misconduct. Indeed, **honest scientists increasingly are retracting their own faulty papers - "self-retraction"** - without the need for persistent prodding by others, or decisive action from university management and/or funding bodies: <http://www.nature.com/news/set-up-a-self-retraction-system-for-honest-errors-1.19619>

The University of Sydney's stated policy on fixing harmful misinformation - as advised by Dr Spence in his 20 April letter - is out of sync with standard practice and modern values.

Instead of properly retracting false and harmful Go8 information that is damaging public health - whenever and wherever it is found on the scientific record and/or in the public debate - Dr Spence, the Chair of the Group of Eight, has invented an unusual policy whereby formal retraction supposedly is appropriate only in cases of "**independently verified research misconduct or unlawfulness**": p. 1 of <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/Go8Chair-academicfreedom.pdf>

Whatever happened to the promised competence and integrity in research at Group of Eight universities, and the long tradition of taxpayer-funded entities correcting false information that damages public health?

In any case, I note that research misconduct in the *Australian Paradox* matter was "independently verified" in 2012, by a former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia: p. 35
<http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/22Slideshowaustraliangoestoparadoxcanberrafinal.pdf>

Moreover, many readers right here, right now will be able to "independently verify" that it was **blatantly dishonest** of authors Professor Jennie Brand-Miller and Dr Alan 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>

For goodness sake, after two years of media coverage, Barclay and Brand-Miller knew full well that the FAO series is comprised of an ABS series discontinued as unreliable after 1998-99, with the FAO simply faking data to 2003 [see charts on page 2, above] ; again, that fake series features the conspicuous flat line that remains at the centre of the multi-year *Australian Paradox* fraud: pp. 2-3 <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/Go8Chair-academicfreedom.pdf> ; <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/2014-02-09/5239418> ; <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> ; <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/honi-soit-srgs.pdf>

Readers, I have repeatedly provided Dr Spence and the University of Sydney Academic Board with a "laundry list" of the authors' false claims in the *Australian Paradox* fraud: pp. 14-21
<http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/GraphicEvidence.pdf>

In my opinion, the only reasonable approach is to retract the false *Australian Paradox* "finding" - "an inverse relationship" between sugar consumption and obesity (and thus obesity-related maladies including type 2 diabetes) - that is helping to kill innocent Australians, then conduct a credible research-integrity Inquiry that does not (again) simply "vanish" adverse evidence before concluding that everything is fine: pp. 2-3 <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/Go8Chair-academicfreedom.pdf>

3. Urgent need to fix this mess, as media scrutiny grows

Readers, I trust that those in the Senior Executive Group of the University of Sydney, the Vice Chancellors of the Group of Eight and others addressed in this letter - most of whom know right from wrong - are advising Dr Michael Spence that he must do the right thing before this growing scandal becomes a crisis for both the University of Sydney and the Group of Eight.

Importantly, the facts will remain the facts no matter how long they are buried or ignored. I predict that growing media scrutiny of this scandal will be a never-ending problem for those who continue to support harmful false information on the scientific record and in the public debate.

Those with influence listed above, please help Dr Spence - the Chair of the Group of Eight - to do the right thing before media exposure of this matter begins to damage your credibility and careers.

Of course, if you think anything I have written on the Group of Eight's *Australian Paradox* scandal is factually incorrect or otherwise unreasonable, I stand ready to respond properly to your concerns.

Regards,
Rory

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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://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>

RR to-and-fro with USyd VC and Chair Go8 Dr Michael Spence, with RR highlighting what appears to be blatant scientific fraud by USyd, and USyd & Go8 management defrauding taxpayers on a massive

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

Tragically, USyd Charles Perkins Centre researchers are falsely exonerating as harmless the substance that's promoting early death for many in mobs Charlie fought hard to protect:

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

<http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/diabetes.pdf>

<http://www.foodpolitics.com/2016/03/sugar-in-australia-its-better-for-you/>

<http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/1923-Medicine-Textbook.pdf>

pp.12-16 <http://www.australianparadox.com/pdf/obesitysummit.pdf>

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/university-sets-up-500m-centre-for-obesity-research-20130724-2qjq8.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErTPE7astOM>

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

www.strathburn.com

Strathburn Cattle Station is a proud partner of YALARI, Australia's leading provider of quality boarding-school educations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teenagers. Check it out at <http://www.strathburn.com/yalari.php>

Sent: Senior Executive Group of University of Sydney and Go8 management

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CC'ed: NHMRC, ARC, University of Sydney Academic Board and outside observers

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BCC'ed: Journalists and other observers