

January 2012

To the Honorable Federal Health Minister Tanya Plibersek,

I am forwarding this letter of complaint that has been sent to the Consumers Health Forum (CHF) because we would like the Health Department to acknowledge and address consumer concerns. The community has lost confidence in the ability of the Health Department to make decisions in the best interests of the public due to the lack of integrity in the science being used and the conflicts of interest in individuals on government advisory boards. There is overwhelming evidence for this and I will list this below. As a result of this corruption of the scientific process the community has lost confidence in the Government's Childhood Immunisation Schedule as it is clearly driven by profit and not safety.

The community, for whom this policy is designed, is saying no to coercive mandatory immunization policies. Choice in vaccination in Australia exists more in theory than practice and this is not acceptable to the public. It is unethical for a Government to link considerable financial benefits to a Public Health policy involving a medical procedure which has not been proven safe or effective.

Until the issues below are addressed and consumers have proper representation on decision-making boards, the community is rejecting vaccination policy that is linked to financial benefits for parents.

Here is a list of the way in which the science for government policy has been corrupted. Please could you assure the community that these conflicts of interest are addressed and ensure that there are no financial rewards or workplace benefits connected to vaccination policies in Australia.

Conflicts of interest that exist in the science that is used in policy-development:

- doctors being paid to give presentations on vaccines using pharmaceutical company slides and pharmaceutical funded research and statistics
- doctors given free international trips and paid to give presentations for drugs
- Pharmaceutical sales representatives given large bonuses to sell a drug even after concerns were raised about the side-effects of the drugs
- The hidden industry ties of academics in universities and similarly in government advisory boards.
- The conflicts of interest in the media presentation of drugs and their side-effects (sponsorship of the media and their part in health promotion)
- The conflicts of interest in Australia's National Immunisation Conference presented by the Public Health of Australia (PHAA) which is largely funded by the pharmaceutical companies.
- The hidden ties between industry and the chief-editors on peer-reviewed journals, who are selecting against articles with negative findings on drugs/vaccines.

- Little research funding being provided for research in the public interest. In particular, the possibility that the chemicals in the 12 vaccines now recommended to infants under 12 months of age, are causing the steep increase in chronic illness in our children.
- There has been no controlled clinical study comparing vaccinated and unvaccinated animals or children with the combined schedule of vaccines.

Until these issues are addressed the public is rejecting coercive or mandatory immunization policies that result in the discrimination of healthy individuals. I hope the Health Minister will reply to these community concerns personally.

Kind regards,

Judy Wilyman

PhD Candidate