

Newsletter 22 Channel 7 Sunrise and Too many vaccines!

In May 2013 Channel 7 Sunrise program made an attempt at presenting both sides of the vaccination debate. Professor Robert Booy, the co-director of the government's National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) unit presented the case for vaccines and Wendy Lydall presented the case against vaccines, claiming there is a lack of evidence for the safety and efficacy of vaccines.

Professor Robert Booy is a paediatrician as well as being co-director of the government's infectious disease surveillance unit. Here are the declared conflicts of interest he has with industry <http://vaccinationdecisions.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Conflicts-of-Interest-of-Members-of-the-Australian-Technical-and-Advisory-Group-on-Immunisation-141017.pdf>

I would like to emphasise some important points that were not explained in the Sunrise program:

- Vaccination was completely voluntary in Australia from 1952 – 1993 (no coercive measures to increase participation rates) and deaths and illness to infectious diseases in Australia were not a significant concern *after* 1950. Whilst these diseases were still present, illness and death were not a concern for the *majority of children* because of the public health reforms that had occurred with respect to the environment, host (nutrition) and pathogen (bacteria/virus) characteristics.
- Thomas McKeown was a British doctor who was influential in this field and he stated "Clinical medicine (i.e. vaccines) did not make any significant contribution to the reduction of death rates from infectious diseases before 1950". In Australia vaccines were not used widely for any disease *prior to 1952* and measles, whooping cough and influenza were removed from the national notifiable disease list in Australia in 1950 (Commonwealth Yearbook 1953).
- A vaccine for measles was not used in mass vaccination campaigns in Australia until 1970 and McKeown stated in 1979:
"Effective measures (for measles) have only recently become available in the form of immunisation and they had no significant effect on the trend of the death-rate."

AND

“Mortality (deaths) from the disease (measles) is due largely to invasion by secondary organisms which have been treated by chemotherapy since 1935” (1979 p.52). This was in all developed nations.

When Robert Booy spoke about the thousands of children that die of measles (Sunrise Channel 7, 24 May 2013) he was speaking about the developing countries where children still die of these diseases because of malnutrition, lack of sanitation and hygiene.

Robert Booy also spoke about ‘herd immunity’. There are 2 types of herd immunity:

- i) vaccine-created herd immunity and
- ii) natural herd immunity

There is proof that *natural* herd immunity was responsible for the decline in infectious diseases prior to 1950 but the government has not provided evidence that vaccine-created herd immunity has prevented infectious diseases. Immunity can be obtained by sub-clinical infections and mild infections which produce longer term immunity and therefore better community protection. This needs to be considered with the introduction of every new vaccine.

The government has continually added new vaccines to the childhood schedule without a transparent presentation of the risks and benefits of these vaccines to the majority of children. The public is entitled to contribute to debate and decisions in public health policy. The public must maintain their right to choose all medical procedures particularly when they are recommended to people in preventative health policies, ie. to healthy people.

The reason the majority of people are happy to use vaccines is because they do not know what is in each vaccine and they have been educated to believe that ‘vaccines controlled infectious diseases’.

There is no evidence that vaccination is necessary to prevent infectious diseases so mandatory vaccination for childcare centres is unnecessary and unethical. The public must maintain their right to choose this medical procedure in healthy children because there is good evidence that the chronic illness in children is being caused by over-vaccination. Many parents are now long term carers for their children with neurological damage. It would not

be necessary for lobby groups to discredit researchers with misinformation if they had scientific evidence to support their arguments.

Please sign the petitions below to ensure that government officials do not legislate to enforce mandatory vaccination policies. Currently it is illegal for any Australian institution to discriminate against unvaccinated people because vaccination in Australia is not compulsory.

[http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Stop the vilification of parents whose children have been injured or killed by vaccines/?korZGeb](http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Stop_the_vilification_of_parents_whose_children_have_been_injured_or_killed_by_vaccines/?korZGeb)

[http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/My Body My Choice/?cDZEidb](http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/My_Body_My_Choice/?cDZEidb)

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