

Newsletter 26 The ABC's Q and A Program and Vaccination

with Professor Fiona Stanley

21st June 2013

I would like to say 'The ABC's Q and A Program and the vaccination debate' but this is clearly untrue. This was yet another staged performance controlling the information the public receives on vaccination. The only time vaccination is mentioned at public forums is when the questions can be controlled and when there is no opportunity for the public to present the science (or lack of science) that is a concern in this policy.

Over the last few years I have had many experiences of these staged events where consumers are unable to present the science that is of concern in vaccination policies. In May 2010 consumers concerned about vaccines held a forum of 200 people at the State Library in Perth and we invited Professor Fiona Stanley and the West Australian Department of Health to hear our concerns. These authorities declined to attend and their chairs were left empty with their names on them. In response to our public forum the Telethon Institute for Children's Health Research (Perth) held a community meeting on vaccination. Prof Fiona Stanley was the director of this research institute in 2010 but the public was not invited to present and debate their concerns at this community meeting (1st July 2010). Lectures on the use of vaccines were presented and the audience was invited to ask questions but they were not allowed to discuss the answers that were provided - it was a one way flow of information.

Professor Fiona Stanley was the public health advocate on ABC's Q and A program on 17th June 2013. The explanation she provided for why all infants now receive 11 vaccines before 1 year of age was *fear of infectious diseases*. This ignores the scientific knowledge of the history of infectious diseases that she presented in the Australian Yearbook 2001 titled 'Child Health Since Federation'. In this document Professor Fiona Stanley described how deaths and illnesses from infectious diseases declined *before* widespread vaccination.

Whilst the government is creating a fear of infectious diseases there is no equal concern or fear about the huge increase in autism that has occurred simultaneously to the increased

use of vaccines. Apparently autism at a current rate of 1 in 100 children (and rising) is not to be feared or any of the other chronic illnesses in children that have increased over this time. If scientists are ignoring vaccination as a possible cause of the increasing chronic illness in children then the outcomes from the multi-million dollar research studies that are being performed into children's health will be flawed.

On Q and A (17th June 2013) Professor Robert Manne commented that Australia is the only country to have allowed one corporation (News limited) to control approximately 70% of the media. This is influencing public debate and behaviour because different perspectives on risk can be removed from debate or framed to minimise concern. Paul Kelly, Chief Editor of the Australian Newspaper (News Ltd) was quick to suggest that this is a 'conspiracy theory'. And other News Ltd journalists have also dismissed questions about vaccination as a conspiracy theory. This includes Janet Albrechtsen, a journalist with the Australian Newspaper (News Ltd), Sarrah Le Maurquand, a News Ltd journalist and Jonathon Holmes, ABC's MediaWatch <http://vaccinationdecisions.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Jonathon-Holmes-Mediawatch-program-titled-Measles-false-balance-exposed-130116.pdf>

These journalists are dismissing the information without investigating because they have been 'told' it is from disreputable sources and that it represents 'a conspiracy theory'. Meanwhile Channel 10 presents the vice-president of the *Australian Skeptics lobby group*, Rachael Dunlop, as a pro-vaccine expert when she is not a medical doctor and she has disparaged academics and journalists who are questioning the science of vaccines on her blog. <http://vaccinationdecisions.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Rachael-Dunlops-misinformation-2-141019.pdf>

This censoring of the vaccination debate is happening in Australia and public health policy is being controlled by 'experts' using science that is funded and influenced by industry interests. This includes doctors whose education is also largely funded and influenced by industry. Research institutions and universities are in partnerships with industry and many of the researchers and professors have equity in the companies that fund the research. Consumers who try to question this public health issue (unfunded) are abused and vilified

by subscribers of lobby groups (e.g. SAVN and the Australian Skeptics) on their blogs - some of whom are funded by industry. This evidence is on the lobby group page of my website. Meanwhile the government is actively attempting to prevent consumers from voicing their concerns on vaccination by using the NSW HealthCare Complaints Commission (HCCC) (a body that is meant to investigate consumer concerns - not suppress them) to close down one of the consumer voices on vaccination - the Australian Vaccination Network (AVN).

It is time for the public to ask themselves why we are unable to debate this policy in public forums and why the government is going to such lengths to remove the consumer voice on this issue. If the current vaccination policy recommending 11 vaccines in a newborn infant is safe and effective why are public health authorities not answering the questions that the community is asking?

Many of the policy-decision makers have conflicts of interest and this can be observed through the example of Dr. Paul Offit who is the face of the campaign to debunk the theory that vaccines could cause autism. Here are his declared conflicts of interest

<http://vaccinationdecisions.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Paul-Offit-1306181.pdf>

My research is being done at the university and is provided for academic debate. Please encourage your friends and family to take an interest in how vaccination policies are being developed and what you are actually injecting into infants with each vaccine. The package insert will describe all the ingredients and possible side effects. I have attached a logo to this email "NO Jab that's Ok" and it can be made into badges, stickers or posters to show that you have investigated this issue and are not just following the crowd that is accepting without evidence the 'safety and efficacy' of combining multiple vaccines in infants.

Now is the time for the public to get involved as state governments are currently changing the public health legislation to make it more difficult to make personal choices about vaccines. Here are the details on changes being made in NSW:

Public Health (Exclusion of Unvaccinated Children from Child Care) Amendment Bill 2013

The Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 23 May 2013 by Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP, Member for Bundamba, and referred to the Health and Community Services Committee. The committee is to report on this bill by 27 September 2013.

Submissions on the bill are invited, and close on Monday 15 July. A public hearing will be held on Wednesday 21 August 2013 in the Parliamentary Annexe, Alice Street, Brisbane. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Kind Regards,

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