

## Newsletter 3 Is Vaccination in Australia Mandatory?

10 July 2012

I would like to provide you with the directive from the Australian Medical Association (AMA) that was recently sent to doctors regarding the signing of conscientious objector's forms for vaccinations. It seems that even though the government states "vaccination in Australia is not compulsory" the doctors are being told they do not have to sign the refusal forms that parents require to obtain \$2,100 in welfare benefits that are now linked to using 12 vaccines in infants under 12 months of age.

Here is the directive from the AMA:

Published by the AMA (NSW) 9/5/2012 in an email to all members.

“There has been some discussion indicating that individual GPs have a legal obligation to sign conscientious objector forms for parents who do not wish to have their children vaccinated. If you do not feel comfortable that you can adequately explain the disadvantages of vaccination during a consultation you are within your rights to not sign a conscientious objector form. If you have any concerns please contact AMA (NSW) on 9439 8822.

From Sarah Dahlenburg

Director, Medico-Legal and Employment”

Whilst the Australian Government continues to claim that vaccination in Australia is **not** compulsory it has continued to bring in measures that pressure parents to use this procedure for an increasing number of vaccines.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 the government linked a tax benefit worth \$2,100 to fully vaccinating an Australian child. At the same time 2 new vaccines were introduced to the childhood schedule: pneumococcal and meningococcal vaccines. Neither of these diseases has been controlled by

vaccines and both represent a small risk to the majority of children. Yet parents are informed that a child must be 'fully' vaccinated for parents to receive the welfare benefit of \$2,110. This means an infant will now receive 12 vaccines before they are 12 months of age. Would an adult use 12 vaccines in a 12 month time period and are adults aware of the ingredients of vaccines that are injected into the tissues of developing infants? Parents need to be aware that there is an increased risk with each vaccine that is used in an infant.

Whilst parents can fill out exemption forms to refuse this medical procedure and still obtain the welfare benefit they are now required to have this form signed by a licensed medical practitioner. Many parents experience difficulties in getting these forms signed and have concerns about this directive. These include:

- Some doctors are refusing to sign forms even though the government states 'vaccination in Australia is not compulsory'
- Doctors intimidate some patients and many parents do not want confrontation to get the benefits they are entitled to.
- Welfare benefits and doctors signatures are not linked to vaccination in the UK /Europe and parents have not seen evidence that this directive is necessary in Australia.
- The government has not funded the studies (either in animals or humans) that prove it is safe to combine the neurotoxins and other chemicals that are present in childhood vaccines *in a developing infant*.
- Herd immunity due to many vaccines is unproven (in particular pneumococcal and meningococcal vaccines).
- Freedom of choice for a medical procedure for healthy individuals is a fundamental right of humans (without the need to fill out a form in conjunction with another person's opinion) and the Australian Government has not provided any evidence for the necessity to remove this basic human right.

In addition, all health students in tertiary institutions are now required to update with 10 vaccines before they are allowed to work in hospitals and other areas where infectious diseases

may be a concern. This means health students including occupational therapists, physiotherapists and other professionals are informed they can finish their degrees (3 or 4 years of work) but they are also informed they can be refused work in hospitals if they are not up-to-date with the 10 vaccines. Many individuals and parents in Australia are now fighting these directives in court.

Court cases for individuals to refuse vaccination would not exist in a country where vaccination is **not** compulsory. Australia now has policies that discriminate against healthy individuals in the workplace. The Australian Government has introduced this policy *without* presenting evidence of the degree of risk health professionals experience in clinical situations from infectious diseases: either from clinician to patient transfer or vice versa. It is a fundamental human right to decide what we inject into our bodies and the public needs to be consulted in decisions that remove this human right. The public must request the evidence to support this policy.

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[www.vaccinationdecisions.net](http://www.vaccinationdecisions.net)