

Reply to the misinformation provided on the anonymous website

“Reasonablehank”

Blog title: ‘I have a brain too’

This blog presents untruthful information about the arguments I have presented for scientific debate in an academic institution. Before I reply to this fabricated information I will point out that this is an anonymous website which is not associated with any medical or health policy organisation or individual. This individual (who is hiding behind anonymity) has presented fabricated information about a researcher in an academic institution. Universities support students to provide researched information by providing resources, supervisors and funding for their research.

The following information presented by this website is false:

- I have never stated that the government’s immunisation program is ‘tainted’.
- The context in which I used the McCaffery name was in reference to their voluntary participation in a public health advertisement to promote a medical procedure to the public – for the community good. Therefore, the public is entitled to discuss the validity of using individual children’s experiences (anecdotal evidence) as the basis for promoting this medical procedure to the community. Medical professionals will inform you that this is not the evidence that should be used to support a public health policy. A public health policy for the community must be based on the relative risk of a disease and the relative risk of the vaccine to all children. In 2009 the Australian Skeptics lobby group provided an award of \$1000 to the McCaffery’s for their involvement in promoting a vaccine – a medical intervention – to the public. This does not mean that any recipients of financial awards are promoting vaccines for the money.
- It is extremely important that the public is involved in a debate about the type of evidence being used to promote vaccines to the public. There are many parents who are now involved in promoting vaccines to the public (in particular the Hib vaccine) and it is important that the public is aware of any monetary arrangements that are associated with this practice. This does not mean that any parent is promoting these

vaccines for the money (and I have never made this claim) – only that there are awards from organisations and health departments for doing so and they need to be transparent. In addition, I have never disputed the cause of death of any child.

- The public is entitled to transparent information about the financial connections between government representatives, lobby groups and pharmaceutical companies. I have never described this as a ‘conspiracy’ and in many cases the conflicts of interest may not be an issue. However, the public is entitled to be informed of these connections without lobby groups and journalists dismissing the information as ‘a Pharma Shill Gambit’ or a “conspiracy”. All the information I have presented is referenced and the politics of health issues is of particular concern when the community is being asked to use an ever-increasing number of vaccines.

This website “**Reasonablehank**” is a case study of how some lobby groups are operating.

Tactics they are using include:

1. Using a name that pretends to be one thing but is actually the opposite – “**Skeptics**”.
2. Using anonymous websites and aliases to smear and ridicule individuals with credentials without revealing their own names and professions.