

Newsletter 45 Debating Vaccination in Australia

28th January 2014

Vaccination involves the injection of substances into the human body. As a parent it is our duty to know what we are injecting into our body (and those of our children) and it is our right to choose which substances we use. Yet the current government vaccination schedule is infringing on this right.

Many of you will be aware that I have asked the Human Rights Commission (HRC) if the Health laws in Australia protect our right to control what we put into our bodies. In April 2013 I received a letter from the HRC stating that there was no legislation or regulation in the Health laws to compel any individual in Australia to use vaccines. The letter also informed me that vaccination in Australia is 'not compulsory' and that bodily integrity is covered in criminal law.

Yet schools and many workplaces are requiring individuals to vaccinate to keep their jobs, to complete health degrees or to obtain childcare places and welfare benefits. When I asked again if this contradicts the statement that "vaccination in Australia is not compulsory" the reply I received from the HRC was:

".....the fact that institutions are free to insist on health standards does not invalidate these statements" (David Mason, Principle Adviser, Human Rights Scrutiny HRC, December 2013).

These letters are published on my website. The public needs to be aware of recent changes that have been made to current Australian vaccination policies. In 2012 the government added 3 new vaccines to the childhood vaccination schedule before increasing the immunisation benefit (now called Family Tax Benefit Part A supplement) from a total of \$258 to \$2,100. To receive this benefit parents must "fully vaccinate" their child - this includes the 3 new vaccines - chicken pox (varicella), meningococcal and pneumococcal - that were not required before 2011. These diseases are not a threat to the majority of children and vaccines cannot be used without side-effects in some children: the more vaccines you use the greater the risk. In 2013 parents are now coerced with financial benefits and childcare places into using 11 vaccines (24 doses) before their baby is one year old.

It is a parent's responsibility to know what is in the 11 vaccines that doctors are injecting into their developing infants. And doctors have a duty to properly inform parents of the ingredients of each vaccine. Currently this information is not provided to parents before they vaccinate. In addition, many doctors are refusing to sign conscientious objector's forms to refuse vaccines and the AMA is stating "there is no legal obligation to do so" (Australian Doctor). Yet "vaccination in Australia is not compulsory" and the government has linked welfare benefits and childcare centres to "fully vaccinating" your child. This is resulting in discrimination on the basis of vaccination status.

Many people in Australia are concerned about their health rights. Public debates in the media on vaccination are being framed as a pro- and anti- vaccination issue which is a strategy to exclude some of the science from the debate. Science cannot be ignored by being labelled 'anti-vaccine' - it must be debated and refuted with scientific arguments. Currently the NSW Parliament is conducting an investigation into the NSW HealthCare Complaints Committee (HCCC) with the possibility of extending its powers and effectively censoring public debates by excluding some perspectives on health.

If you are concerned about this issue please investigate the Terms of Reference and make a submission before the 7th February. You can also contribute to this inquiry by signing this petition that will be submitted to the NSW Parliament

[https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Do not give the NSW HCCC powers of censorship over public and individuals/?email](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Do_not_give_the_NSW_HCCC_powers_of_censorship_over_public_and_individuals/?email)

I hope you will take an interest in your right to participate in health debates and to choose what substances you put into your own body.

Kind regards,

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