

Newsletter 6: Debating Vaccination in Australia

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Vaccinating children with an ever expanding schedule of vaccines is an issue that should be discussed by all Australians. This issue is fundamental to population health. So it was a surprise to me to find that so many people are prepared to ridicule and discredit anyone who attempts to debate this topic. Why is the community not prepared to openly discuss the risks as well as the benefits of this medical procedure in healthy people – without criticizing the person?

The issues surrounding the government's schedule of vaccines revolves around the risk assessment for the vaccine as well as the disease. The risk assessment will alter according to whether the government's schedule recommends 2 vaccines or 12 vaccines before a baby is one year of age. This is because the number of ingredients increases with the number of vaccines that are used. In addition, the blood brain barrier of infants that is designed to prevent toxins reaching the brain is not developed until 6 months of age. A foetus will experience all the substances absorbed by the mother but in greater toxicity due to its size and weight.

Lobby groups in Australia are using anonymous websites to discredit individuals questioning the number of vaccines. In many cases they are doing this without revealing their own names and professions. This is discussed on the lobby group page of my website. On these anonymous websites they are editing the arguments people are presenting and placing their own interpretations on these comments. This is a way of influencing public opinion and it makes it difficult for the public to see the truth of the information. I have invited people to present their arguments on my website with their names and professions to ensure that the issues can be discussed without criticism of the individual. The purpose of my university research is to contribute to population health so it would be disingenuous of me to edit people's comments to influence public debate.

It is also a concern that so many vaccines are now being given in schools where a medical history of the child is not assessed. Many diseases such as allergies and autoimmune diseases have a known genetic link and in the past the assessment for contraindications to vaccines was

done by the doctors. In the school environment children and parents are not being informed about the ingredients of vaccines or the risks of the diseases and vaccines to the population. This data is important to the number of vaccines that we use and I have presented this information on my website.

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www.vaccinationdecisions.net