

## **Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (No Jab, No Play) Bill 2015**

### **Submission**

#### **The right to access education for all children**

The first National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education was signed by the Council of Australian Governments on 29 November 2008. Under this agreement, all governments committed to work together to ensure that

***all children have access to a quality early childhood education programme, delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher for 600 hours of preschool education in the year before they attend full-time school.”***

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education – 2015

“State and governments must develop implementation plans that set out the strategies to provide universal access and participation by vulnerable and disadvantaged children, and indigenous children.”

Our children will become vulnerable and disadvantaged if they are denied the current educational opportunities they currently are experiencing.

### **Human Rights**

Australia is already suffering criticisms of its human rights record within many marginalized and disadvantaged communities. The proposed legislation violates my human right for informed consent which is enshrined in medical ethics, in human-

rights instruments to which Australia is signatory, and in international law. The Australian Government itself acknowledges, on the Health Department's web site, that *legally valid* consent can occur only "in the absence of undue pressure, coercion or manipulation". The Australian *Constitution* s.51(xxiiiA) forbids Commonwealth provision of medical and dental services to **require** anybody to accept those services.

We ask that you treat this submission with consideration and respect and do not dismiss our concerns as being irrational or on the 'fringe'. Please listen to those scientists who have another point of view about the harm vaccines can cause and how the concept of 'herd immunity' does not stand up to scrutiny. It is our request that the government does not pass this bill which is aimed at only 1.49 percent of parents (including us) who have registered their vaccine refusal.

### **Unintended consequences**

Dr Julie Leask a researcher at Sydney University and founder and President of the Children's Medical Safety Research Institute recently wrote

"Some of the current media coverage around vaccination risks polarising communities. It does little for under-vaccination and may unwittingly worsen it. Parents who may have never seen nor considered anti-vaccination arguments are introduced to them. Some may see refusing vaccines as a new trend worth considering, emulating others perceived to be more knowledgeable. Those who may be tentative or leaning away from vaccination could be further alienated.

This polarisation could lead to ideologically dogmatic debate and then isolation for parents who are merely cautious. In such a harsh environment, these parents might be readily labelled as "anti-vaccination" and their concerns attacked.

L Hood (see covering email for contact details)