

The Hon Elizabeth Blandthorn
Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee (SARC).
Parliament House, Spring Street,
Melbourne, VIC, 3002.

RE: Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (No Jab, No Play) Bill 2015

Dear Ms Blandthorn,

I wish to express my concern with the proposed bill which I feel trespasses unduly upon rights and freedoms set out in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

While I am a proponent of relevant vaccination programs, I consider the proposed legislation to constitute a de-facto vaccination mandate as full vaccination will be required for entry into childcare and kindergarten and for many this service is a necessity. By removing the provision for conscientious objection, working parents who oppose all or even just one scheduled vaccination will be forced to choose between compromising their religious/conscientious beliefs or leaving the workforce to care for their child. Under such duress, pressure and coercion legally valid consent to a medical procedure cannot be given thus article 10c of the Charter is contravened. Similarly under such constraint an individual would be compelled to make choices against their will and beliefs, stifling their freedom of thought, conscious/religion and expression consequently contravening article 14 and 15 of the charter.

The proposed vaccination requirement would also punish children by denying them their right to access an essential early education service which their parents help fund through their taxes. This unlawful discrimination contravenes article 17 and 18b of the Charter.

The proposed legislation is discriminatory and infringes upon the basic human right of bodily integrity and a number of human rights set out in the Charter. The Statement of compatibility accompanying this Bill does not provided specific, evidence based justification that the proposed legislation is necessary nor that the limitations on human rights it imposes are warranted.

I implore the Committee to recommend that the Bill should not be passed in its current form.

Yours Faithfully,

Melissa Jovanovic