I would like to voice my strong objection to the proposed legislation which would exclude partially or completely unvaccinated children from attending childcare centres and preschool.

Threatening to disadvantage families by coercing a medical procedure is unethical and against human rights. Consent must be obtained for any medical procedure, and where there is coercion to financially penalise families, any consent obtained is invalid.

I am very concerned that thousands of children in our communities would be deprived the experience of a good quality early childhood education programme before starting school. Doesn’t every child, despite the beliefs of the parents, deserve the right to an education? In 2008, Victoria along with the Commonwealth and the other States and Territories signed a National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education to ensure that all children have access to early childhood education.

Exclusion of unvaccinated children is not only discriminatory, but it unfairly disadvantages them, especially if they are already financially and or socially vulnerable. Even children who carry known diseases that can be life threatening such as HIV and Hep B, cannot be legally discriminated against in getting childcare or an education. Shouldn’t healthy unvaccinated children be afforded the same rights?

Vaccinations are said to be “unavoidably unsafe” due to the ingredients causing a percentage of the population to have adverse reactions, some severe enough to cause irreparable damage or even death. To many well educated and informed parents, the risks are just not worth it. Where there is risk, there must be choice! And for those that do suffer vaccine damage, there is no recourse to be compensated for the many thousands or millions of dollars it costs to care for these babies, children and adults. With vaccine manufacturers being immune to legal action, there must at least be a government funded vaccine injury compensation fund to pay these families.

As a working mother, having no access to childcare means that I would have to give up my job, stop paying taxes, and go on unemployment benefits. Multiply this by thousands of parents who also choose not to be coerced into vaccinating their children, this of course would cost the government a lot of money.

I hope that the committee will take these concerns on board and reject this Murdock newspaper inspired legislation that has no credible basis in health or wellbeing and even the AMA rejects!

Virginia Maddock
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