

28 September 2015

Ms Lizzie Blandthorn MP
Chair
Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Ms Blandthorn,

I am writing this submission to object to the proposed Public Health and Well-being (No Jab No Play) Bill 2015. As a practising health professional, and a citizen of this state, I have strong concerns over the potentially devastating effects of this legislation, should it come into action.

As a health professional, it alarms me that the government could allow legislation which mandates mass vaccination on every child in the state, regardless of whether or not each individual carries the disease, has built natural immunity to a disease, or poses any threat to our society at all. Every health professional in this country is bound by a code of conduct and ethics in practice to protect the public. Part of any treatment given, to anyone, of any sort, involves informed consent. Informed consent is a process in which a patient, or a patient's legal parent or guardian, is explained the risks, and the benefits, of the proposed treatment and must make an informed decision regarding their choice of treatment, or lack thereof. This consent is not legal or valid if they have been manipulated or coerced into making a decision. To mandate a full vaccination schedule to attend child care or kindergarten is surely a breach of this code, and a breach of every child's right to a healthy upbringing, and education.

Beyond this, my concerns extend to the frightening reality that, should this legislation be passed, it opens the door for any number of "recommended" vaccines to be added to the schedule, without question. This means that the already potentially toxic and intense vaccine schedule currently recommended by the government can increase further still, and parents would have no right to object. Where will it end? As long as there is profit, there will be pharmaceutical companies pushing to have their vaccines added to the recommended schedule. The past 30 years has seen an astronomical rise in vaccine dosages given in Victoria and it horrifies me to consider how much further it can be taken.

Where there is risk, there must be a choice. It need be no more complicated than that. Only the ignorant can argue that vaccines carry zero risk- the inserts of the vaccinations themselves state the potential (side)effects. Where are the studies to prove that not only do vaccines on their own carry ZERO risk, but accumulatively they are safe long term, and carry no risk of weaken-

ing immunity, or interfering with the health of a developing brain and nervous system?

I am not a parent, but as a caring, compassionate, intelligent member of society I urge you to see the dangerous implications this legislation may have long term. We need to think beyond the short term benefits, and set ourselves up to become a country of strong, healthy, vibrant people for generations to come. This short-sighted approach to “improving health” is not the approach of choice for many intelligent parents in our nation, and this must be considered.

The danger with the topic of vaccination is that it is a very emotive one. Of course no one wishes to see a young child sick, or suffering. Every parent makes decisions based on what they believe is the best thing for their child, and the greater good of the community. Parents on both sides of the vaccination debate act with these same objectives. To strip a parent of their right to choose what is best for their children, especially in an arena of such ambiguity, is unjust.

I submit this letter anonymously, as I am professionally silenced on the topic of vaccination. Like many educated health professionals, by speaking publicly about vaccination - the risks and benefits - I jeopardise my right to do what I love most, taking care of people and helping them to be healthy and robust, from the inside out.

Sincerely,

Anonymous