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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 28 September 2015 9:08 PM  
**To:** SARC  
**Subject:** Submission for "No Jab No Play" Bil  
**Attachments:** letter to SARC.docx

Please find attached letter for the committee regarding the proposed legislation - "Public Health and Wellbeing No Jab No Play Bill 2015".

I've signed it anonymous due to possible risk/ attention from my registration board (unfortunate it's necessary to do so). I am writing this letter from a parental viewpoint and wish it to be received as such. I will include at the base of this email my details but do not wish for them to become public and ask you respect this.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

28 September 2015

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee  
Parliament House, Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

To The SARC Committee,

I am writing this submission to object to the proposed Public Health and Wellbeing (No Jab No Play) Bill 2015. As a parent and a practicing health professional I have some concerns around the proposed new Victorian Legislation which potentially prevents children from being enrolled in kindergarten and childcare programs across the state.

As parents it is our responsibility and right to raise our children, and of course with their best interests in mind. Any choices made are always made with their health and interests in mind. Choices that include all of the information, and decisions made based upon that. To have these fundamental rights taken away from us seems extremely unethical.

If there is a risk (you need only read the vaccine inserts) there must be a choice, all parents have the right and the duty to decide which risk is acceptable to their own families without coercion. My daughter suffers febrile convulsions. Inserts suggest caution if there is *any* family history (my husband suffered them also as a child), and/or previous history of febrile convulsions. Watching her suffer them is horrendous and we can't justify the possibility of subjecting her to it.

The number of vaccines required to be "fully" up to date is also of concern. Further, it is my understanding that if this policy goes through any number of vaccines can be added to the schedule at any time. Currently the schedule recommends 41 vaccines given in 15 doses up to the age of 4. This is a significant increase to the recommended 16 vaccines given in 8 doses as at 1982.

The intent here is to raise questions and focus attention on the complex issues surrounding the proposed legislation and request that you ask some important questions on behalf of myself and many other concerned families and individuals.

The government maintains that no one is "forcing" anyone to do anything, yet restricting access to early childhood education places significant pressure on parents to comply. It's very concerning, and I'm curious as to who will be taking responsibility for any adverse health outcomes that may occur?

When we already have 90-95% of children following the current schedule, why such a push all of a sudden? At present, most parents, grandparents and children are receiving the pertussis vaccine, compliance rates are at an all time high, yet whooping cough cases are equally at an all time high. These are common thoughts raised from the minor reporting in the media and never addressed in terms of efficacy of vaccines. Perhaps review of the vaccines needs to be looked into. Perhaps

another way which accommodates the community's concerns needs to be addressed. Perhaps looking at the variable constitutions of each individual needs to be considered so that we provide strength and good health to the entire community, rather than judgment and forcing of parents hand.

In addition to the above I lodge this objection based on The Victorian Charter of Human Rights & Responsibility and believe the following sections have been or will be breached.

**Section 8**

The rights of parents to express a view based on research and scientific evidence contrary to what government advisors have promoted have been abrogated. They are not recognised or treated equally under the law.

**Section 13**

All immunisation records or lack thereof will be public knowledge, teachers, enrolment officers etc will all have access to this information leading to possible discrimination.

**Sections 14, 15 & 16**

The right of freedom to speech has already been breached as health professionals across all modalities are discriminated against. If they speak out with an alternate view, with alternate evidence and in any way are seen to support objections to this proposed law, they face deregistration from their respective Registration Boards.

As a result, counter arguments and balanced debate has not occurred from those qualified with medical and scientific training - they have been unfairly and unjustly silenced which cuts across all three rights as noted above - the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief (s14), the right to freedom of expression (s 15), the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association (section 16)

**Section 17**

Under the proposal, the ONLY accepted reason for exclusion is if children have ALREADY had an adverse reaction to immunisation. Parents who do not wish to take this risk clearly have lost their right to protect their children in the way they believe to be in their best interests. As in our choice for our daughter with know family history and her medical history of febrile convulsions. In addition, if there IS an adverse reaction, there is no protection as the risks of such reactions are spelt out in the fine print of the medication packaging.

I hope that you please consider all the above concerns, and all others that voice theirs.

Regards,

Anonymous