

Simon Dinsbergs

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 30 September 2015 4:21 PM
To: SARC
Subject: Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (No Jab, No Play) Bill 2015

Attn: Ms Lizzie Blandthorn, Chair, Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee

Dear Ms Blandthorn,

I write to you as a concerned parent and citizen with regard to the proposed Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (No Jab, No Play) Bill 2015 which seeks to exclude unvaccinated or "under-vaccinated" children from daycare centres and early childhood education. I am aware that the Victorian Government is seeking to enact this legislation to boost vaccination rates, which is puzzling seeing as Victoria already has some of the highest rates of vaccination in the country. However, the net result of this discriminatory and ill-thought-out legislation will be that children of bona fide conscientious objectors (which are a mere fraction of the population) will miss out on early childhood education. The rights of the child to access early childhood education are being directly threatened by this amendment, as is the right of parents to decide which elective medical treatments their children will receive. Coercion via financial sanction or refusal of services to a minority is unethical and a clear human rights violation, I am certain the courts would also see it this way too.

If a child, whose parents were coerced into vaccination in order to access early childhood education, experiences an adverse effect (as did Saba Button of WA in recent years, amongst many others who haven't received media coverage) is the State Government prepared to pay compensation and cover the child's medical costs? What if the parents decide to pursue legal action against the Vic Government? This is a very real issue if you attempt to mandate vaccination - as Australia does not have a vaccine injury compensation scheme, the liability for any harm would fall to the Vic Government. These are just some of the potential repercussions of the proposed legislation.

Is the Government prepared for the eventuality of the quarantining of unvaccinated children together in ad hoc/unlicensed early childcare arrangements as a result of this legislation? I was under the impression that the Health department is concerned with "hot spots" of under-vaccination, would not this legislation only intensify this so-called problem? This legislation does not have the support of any professional organisation, so it begs the question, why is the Health Minister trying to rush this through? The only reason for the urgency is, surely, lobbying from the pharmaceutical industry.

Kind regards,

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