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From: Liz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 1 October 2015 5:21 PM
To: SARC
Subject: RE: Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (No Jab, No Play) Bill 2015

Resending with address details thank you.

Dear Ms Lizzie Blandthorn MP, Chair,

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee

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

I am writing in the slim hope that my concerns can be considered. I am against the proposed "no jab no play" policy the Victorian Government is proposing, for the reasons I will outline below:

Informed consent is written into the Australian Government's vaccine handbook. It states that consent "must be given voluntarily, in the absence of undue pressure, coercion or manipulation:"

Using coercive measures is not voluntary consent in the absence of undue pressure. This is not just about pro or anti vaccination, this is about human rights.

The injection of vaccines or any substance into our bodies is a choice, refusing childcare, kindergarten, welfare payments for making a choice not to inject vaccines into our children is discrimination, and an infringement on our human rights. An infringement on our right to bodily integrity. The current Health Act does not have regulations to compel anyone to accept vaccines. This proposed legislation is discriminatory and unlawful.

I am not wanting to argue the evils of vaccinations. I am not wanting to debate all the ingredients. I simply believe that no medication comes without risk. This includes vaccines. By enforcing vaccination for children to enter childcare and Kindergarten, we are trying to force people to expose their children to a risk they may not feel comfortable with. Vaccinating carries a risk. These risks are real. The Govt. may believe these risks of averse reactions are worth taking, but I as a parent should be able to decide this for my child.

Should people be coerced into vaccinating, because they need their child to attend childcare due to financial necessity, who takes responsibility if a child is injured from a vaccine?

I no longer vaccinate my own children. I am not a criminal, nor am I a negligent mother. I simply had one child with a serious adverse reaction to a vaccine. This was new to me. Prior to this event, I had two teenagers whom were up to date with every vaccine, and I have two preschoolers whom I was adamant would be fully vaccinated. That was before this experience. There are no guarantees in anything we do, we can cross a road and come to harm. However, before I inject my children with any substance, I as their mother, ask for a guarantee this substance will not harm my child in any way. No one can give me this guarantee. So again, I should be able to decide this without manipulation/monetary coercion, or threats of my children being isolated or segregated from preschool. This approach will not change my mind because my concerns are genuine. Our concerns should be addressed in a genuine manner, not brushed aside with the "there is no debate" implication. If there was no debate, we would all be vaccinating. But there IS an issue, there IS a debate, and these proposed measures will not solve the issues.

There are also some people who have objections to only one or two vaccines. What of them? They will also be penalised by this policy.

What of the parent who has a child who has a medical exemption, with a risk that their next child may have an adverse reaction. These parents should not be coerced into vaccinating so their child has a place in kindergarten, nor should they be penalised financially, when they pay taxes just as the next person does. This proposed policy will affect many people greatly. And our children, the innocents in the whole vaccine debate, will be the ones who are penalised the most.

I am simply an ordinary person, I don't have a "cause" or anything. I love my country and my state I have always lived in. I am simply a concerned mum who loves her children beyond measure, I am apprehensive about where this proposed legislation will lead. I am however, confident this proposed approach will not change my mind. I thank you for your time in reading my correspondence and I implore you to please consider our concerns regarding this legislation.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Gazeas

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