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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 October 2015 10:14 PM  
**To:** SARC  
**Subject:** (No Jab, No Play) Bill 2015

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

Ms Lizzie Blandthorn MP,  
Chair,  
Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee

Dear Ms Blandthorn,

I am quite shocked that you feel it is an appropriate measure to enforce vaccination on citizens when there are genuine reasons for concern. Restricting concessions to medical exemptions only excludes families like ours who have a family history of severe reactions.

My husband's Aunt and her two sisters all had convulsions after their triple antigen vaccine. One of them, his Aunt Jenny, had continuous episodes of convulsions which left her brain damaged after an extended period without oxygen to the brain. The GP who administered the shot acknowledged that it was definitely a severe reaction to the vaccine and at the time, advised the family not to have any more family members vaccinated. This occurred during a time when doctors were not afraid to admit that vaccines could cause harm. Jenny is both physically and intellectually disabled and has needed constant care her whole life. She has not been able to work or interact too much in society due to her disabilities.

The impact on my husband's family has been massive. My mother in law did not have her 3 children vaccinated until they were nearing school age and even then, she had the freedom to choose only a select few vaccines. My husband grew up with his disabled Aunt and while she is slightly older in years, she still now only has the IQ of about an 8 year old child. When our first daughter was born, we discussed with three GPs the benefits and risks of vaccines. I am very glad we had the opportunity to talk about this in such detail with people in the medical profession because they had the decency to listen to our story. They all supported the view that vaccination should be a parent's own decision. In the end it was not a difficult decision to with-hold vaccinating our own children. The number of vaccines on the schedule today is beyond belief!

I am greatly concerned when I hear politicians repeating phrases like "The Science is in" or "The Science is clear and settled on vaccines" because it makes it blatantly obvious to me that this person has not been able to think beyond the everyday rhetoric of the media and lobby groups. Why is it that in other areas of medical science, we would embrace scientific improvements with open arms, yet when it comes to vaccines, there is no room for discussion or for change? It saddens me to think that in a country full of intelligent and innovative scientists, people are afraid to speak out. The media has pretty much convinced our population that there is no other side to vaccines. There is only one side to be heard. Australians are in denial that injuries actually occur.

Medical procedures all carry some risk and this is also true of vaccines. The World Health Organisation acknowledges that vaccine injuries DO occur and lists the 19 countries that do provide financial compensation to those left injured. Regrettably, Australia is not one of those countries. Families left with a vaccine injured child, like Saba Button, are forced to sue both the

government and the drug company involved. But many families do not have the funds to pay for such an expensive battle in court. My husband's family were financially exhausted from the years of medical treatment required for their daughter that they gave up hope of ever taking legal action.

You are forcing a medical procedure on families when Australia does not even have a Vaccine Injury Compensation Scheme in place. Australia's medical exemption form does not include family history reactions like the one I have described to you, which is why we have always been registered as conscientious objectors.

Who will take responsibility for our children if they have a similar reaction? Will you? Will the State? When I see how Saba Button's family has suffered after her very similar reaction and the way they were neglected by the government and by GSK, I know how the story ends. It is the parents who are left looking after their injured child. No one but the parents should be making the decision when there are very real risks involved.

Regards,

