11.1.16 Submission 1 Received: 18/06/2013

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To: Bundamba Electorate Office

Cc: <u>Health and Community Services Committee</u>

Subject: Unvaccinated and democratic?

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Media coverage about the growing number of unvaccinated families is appearing thick and fast, in print and online. That said, those who refuse vaccination, or cannot be vaccinated, are being urged to register as a Conscientious Objector. Right?

It is true there is a percentage of unvaccinated people who are fence-sitters or really don't care one way or another. That's who the the proposed Bill is trying to round up. No problem, except that biased journalists, ill informed politicians and pro-vaccine lobby groups (skeptics) are behaving like a lynch mob against ANYONE who is unvaccinated, irrespective of their reasons. Several weeks ago the Courier Mail reported on the public concerns over continued use of the withdrawn flu vaccine, yet went on to describe non-vaccinators as the 'Baby Einstein demographic', repeating government research of old, acknowledging clusters of non-vaccinators as generally 'highly educated, well researched, middle class individuals who have made a well informed decision'. Compare this with the pro-vaccine lobby (aggressive in print and online media) who insist that ALL nonvaccinators are 'anti-vaxers' and are lazy, bad parents, ignorant of history, uneducated, disease carrying, disease spreading, free-loading on the vaccinated, welfare grabbing scum that need to be deported to their own island away from the vaccinated and to wear a badge saying 'unclean'...etc. etc'. I am quoting from some recent online forums. These extremists demands often come from parents and readily lead to bullying and exclusion in schools, playgroups, mothers groups, further deepening the fear, myths and ignorance surrounding this VERY medical issue.

There is a human face to 'vaccine refusers'. That's us! Almost 20 years ago we vaccinated our first son. He suffered multiple seizures and encephalitis within minutes after his first round and (more severely) after his second. We thought we could lose him. It was a horrifying ordeal that was made all the worse by the gross negligence and denial of the administering GP, determined that the vaccination had nothing to do with it. Lots of stress, treatment, tests and hundreds of dollars later, it was advised we should not vaccinate again or only administer under hospital supervision. In disgust and disbelief, we withdrew from the vaccine schedule and launched into an intensive 'please explain' enquiry involving local media, AMA, Queensland Health, pharmacy and vaccine manufacturers. Lots of doors were closed. We have since read countless case studies, books, articles and research papers to better understand WHY he reacted so badly and WHY this risk was not explained willingly by the GP (health department) in the first place. Our son's reaction was severe and life threatening, and incidentally, was NEVER reported. We also discovered we had a family history of severe reactions and were not alone in our frustration. Did we continue vaccinating him? No. We registered as Conscientious Objectors. Did we make an informed decision to stop vaccinating? Yes. The 'greater good' is NOT for our

In Australia, those who have registered with the

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health department as a Conscientious Objector (non-vaccinator) include those who;

- 1. Cannot or should not be vaccinated (allergy, immune suppressed), and/or
- 2. Have suffered (or witnessed) a significant adverse reaction to vaccination and have withdrawn from the program (seizures, paralysis, brain damage, organ failure), and/or
- 3. Have made an educated, ethical, cultural or religious decision against the practice of vaccination.

For more information visit: www.vaccinationdecisions.net

Vaccine injury is grossly under-reported and happens every day. More and more are braving the pro-vaccine attack and coming forward with stories of loss and suffering far worse than our own. Did you recall the media coverage about these two families?

http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/health-science/taking-steps-to-care-for-vaccines-victims/story-e6frg8y6-1226082406325 http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/features/virus-in-the-system/story-e6frg8h6-1226063484330

These cases are not as 'rare' as official statements claim. I know that from personal experience. I also have fully vaccinated friends and family who have contracted said disease and suffered terribly. The vaccines failed these families. A no-fault vaccine injury compensation scheme has been on the policy to-do list for almost 10 years. Still NOTHING.

Please view the links below and and consider the daily reality for Australian families such as our own. Making vaccination a compulsory requirement for childcare or education is unethical, discriminatory and dismisses a medical Duty of Care, AND the absolute, democratic right of Informed Consent.

http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Stop the vilification of parents whose childre n have been injured or killed by vaccines/?copy

http://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/australian-federal-state-governments-donot-legislate-compulsory-vaccinations? utm_campaign=signature_receipt&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition

The Iwinski Family Educated and Against Discrimination