

From: [Chris Del Mar](#)
To: [Health and Community Services Committee](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Health and Community Services Committee: Invitation to make a submission
Date: Friday, 28 June 2013 9:46:41 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Health and Community Services Committee
Queensland Parliament

Dear Committee Members

- Thanks you very much for the invitation to comment on the proposed legislation.
- From a public health point of view, it is important to raise the 'herd immunity' of the population against vaccine-preventable infections. The proportion of the population required to achieve herd immunity varies with each disease (because this is dependent on the infectivity of each disease).
- To that end, any incentive that increases immunisation rates is welcome.
- However excluding children from child care legislatively carries a number of ethical issues. I think it would be important to obtain ethical expertise in this area before passing legislation in this area.
- Perhaps it would be more important to address the issues that induce parents to avoid vaccination of their children. In many cases this is a downstream consequence of inadequate health literacy. Health literacy (particularly understanding the empirical pros and cons of any health or medical intervention) is poor in our society, and it means that members of the public are prey to eccentric ideas that often have no medical or scientific validity.
- So perhaps it might be better to think of ways of improving health literacy instead of simply coercion.
- The fault also lies with the medical and health professions, which employ techniques such as shared decision-making insufficiently.
- Shared decision-making (SDM) is a professional-patient communication technique which emphasises the communication of the evidence behind any recommendation, and tries to ensure that patients understand the pros and cons from an empirical viewpoint.

I would be happy to discuss any of these issues in more detail at the Committee's request.

Chris Del Mar

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