




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2015

PUBLIC HEALTH (CHILD CARE VACCINATION) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Miss BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.06 pm): At the outset, I wish the member for Nudgee a very happy birthday. Today I rise to speak on the Public Health (Childcare Vaccination) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill does a very important thing: it empowers our early educational professionals to make judgement determinations based on evidence about the exposure of the children under their care to infectious diseases. As an early education professional, I know the kinds of environments that exist in centres. The reality is that our children in those environments come in very close contact with one another. Very regularly, it is the perfect environment for the spreading of infections. Children are more vulnerable than adults in this regard.

The importance of this bill to me personally is based on my career in an industry where I got to see firsthand, in a practical sense, the potential exposure to children. Every day as an early childhood professional, you get to make decisions that are in the best interests of children in your care and to whom you have a duty of care. I see this bill as an extension of that. The question that our opponents ask is: how does my child being nonvaccinated affect other people's children in early education? The science is conclusive about herd immunity: non-vaccinated children present an exposure risk for everyone with whom they come in contact.

If many in populations are not vaccinated then that breaks down the power of vaccine resistance and creates the perfect environment for outbreaks to occur. Opponents of this bill say things like, 'I have the right to say no to vaccinations.' In our free society people do have the right to ignore sound medical advice and say no to vaccination. This bill empowers our early education professionals with the same right: to say no to exposing those in their care who are at risk.

There is a lot of misinformation, confusion and hysteria in some parts of our community about vaccination. There are tragic examples where side effects are pointed to as being the case study for why children should not in fact be vaccinated.

A paper entitled 'Changing patterns of infant death over the last 100 years: autopsy experience from a specialist children hospital' published in the journal of the Royal Society of Medicine outlined the pure statistics. It stated—

The commonest cause of death in 1909 was infection (74%) compared to 20% per cent of deaths in 2009.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that if turn of the century infant death rates had continued an estimated 500,000 live born infants during 1997 would have died before the age of one year. Instead, 28,045 infants died. The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia's August 2012 paper on immunisation and vaccine preventable diseases estimated that tens of thousands of child deaths were prevented in Australia by vaccination in the 20th century.

Locally I have seen many examples of vaccination. I was honoured to attend my local Institute of Urban Indigenous Health located in Strathpine. There I launched their bubs onesie a couple of months

ago. The onesie is an initiative of Deadly Choices that is aimed at getting children in and vaccinated at an early age. Immunisation is the first step. The follow-up care for mums is the other essential step.

What this really promotes is ongoing health in a preventive and health promotion way. I have to pay tribute to the work that the staff are doing at the Urban Institute of Indigenous Health. They do fantastic work. I launched their bubs onesie along with Warren Snowdon and Shayne Neumann.

Locally we have also seen some great initiatives from our local Rotary groups. They are committed to ensuring that there is access to polio vaccinations right across the world. That vaccination eliminates polio. They should be commended for their fantastic work.

People have a right to say no in our society. As an early education professional, I would do everything I could to protect those in my care. This empowers those who are still working in the profession to do that explicitly and with the backing of the law. I commend the bill to the House.