

Newsletter 87 The Senate Committee Inquiry 'No Jab No Pay' Policy Australia

On the 6 November 2015 I sent out a newsletter informing the public that many submissions had not been published on the government website prior to the public hearing for the 'No Jab No Play' policy (2 November 2015). This included my own <u>submission</u> based on university research. My submission was uploaded to the government website on Sunday 8 November 2015 with many others. This was the day before the Senate Inquiry Report was due to be released - 9 November 2015. My submission is <u>468</u> on the government website and the Senate Report is now due to be released on 11 November 2015.

It is notable that the program for the public hearing included 3 consumer lobby groups, many that have subscribers with links to the Australian Skeptics lobby groups - a non-scientific provaccination lobby group. The lobby groups represented at the <u>public hearing</u> included the Northern Rivers Vaccination Supporters, the Stop the Australian Vaccination Network (SAVN) and the Friends of Science. Many pro-vaccine lobby groups are using false and misleading information to promote vaccines to the public. They are also using emotional and divisive <u>misinformation</u> from unqualified individuals in the mainstream media to confuse the public about vaccination issues.

In contrast, representatives of the government's vaccination advisory boards - ATAGI and NCIRS - were not required to provide evidence for the need for this policy at the public hearing. Terry Nolan was the chair of ATAGI from 2005-2014 and Peter McIntyre and Robert Booy have been the co-directors of the NCIRS from 2005-2015 and they were not asked to give evidence at the Senate Inquiry public hearing to defend the need for mandatory vaccination linked to financial inducements - at a time when there is no increased risk from infectious diseases. These representatives also declined to attend a public forum to discuss the 'No Jab No Pay' policy held at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) on 15 October 2015.

Why are these government representatives, who have designed the national immunisation program (NIP) for a decade, not defending these coercive strategies in a social welfare policy? These strategies are being promoted on false and misleading information presented by provaccine consumer lobby groups who are given a voice in the mainstream media and in organisations such as the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA). The reasons that the ATAGI and NCIRS vaccine advisory boards are not defending these coercive strategies is because the majority of the vaccines on the NIP were not introduced until the deaths and illnesses

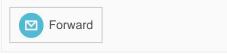
to infectious diseases, and hence the infant mortality rate, had been significantly reduced (Fiona Stanley, Australian of the Year for Children's Health, 2003). This was explained in my <u>Newsletter No.85</u> and there is no justification for infringing human rights covenants with this policy.

The information these lobby groups are ignoring to make claims about vaccines is provided in my submission that was not published on the government website until after the public hearing for this bill.

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