Response to the Incorrect Comments made by Peter McIntyre, ex-director of the NCIRS about my University of Wollongong Research

Here are some facts about the completion of my Master of Science degree (2006) and PhD Research (2015) at the University of Wollongong (UOW):

1. I completed my Master of Science (Population Health) degree with Distinction in 2006, in the School of Public Health (Faculty of Health). When I asked to continue my public health research with a PhD investigating the government's vaccination program in the Faculty of Health, this request was refused.
2. I was informed that a PhD investigating the control of infectious diseases in Australia would have to be completed in the Faculty of Arts, in the School of Social Sciences. This is because the control of infectious diseases is a political topic. The University of Wollongong would not allow my PhD to be completed in the Faculty of Health and my research was transferred to the Faculty of Arts, in the School of Social Sciences in 2011 when I started my PhD.
3. In 2014 the UOW moved the School of Public Health from the Faculty of Health into its own faculty called the **Faculty of Social Sciences** where it is today. So by the time my research was completed in December 2015 the university had re-organised the faculties to cover the fact that they would not provide supervisors for my PhD on vaccination science and policy in the Faculty of Health in 2011.
4. Infectious diseases were controlled in the mid-twentieth century and were termed ‘social medicine’ because economic and political decisions regarding the installation of public health measures were responsible for the control of these diseases. This involved changes to environmental and lifestyle characteristics that are determinants of these diseases so it is appropriate that this public health topic is studied in the School of Humanities and Social Science/Inquiry.
5. Peter McIntyre has attempted to remove credibility from my research and teaching in the Environmental Science Department at Murdoch University (2008-2010) by associating my work with events that happened to Dr. Peter Dingle. These events were irrelevant to my PhD research that was carried out from 2011-2015 at the University of Wollongong. This was supervised by Emeritus Professor Brian Martin.
6. I have not been made aware of any academics in my field of research who have complained about 'inadequate supervision' or 'poor practices around research

evidence' for my research. Please request that Peter McIntyre provides evidence for this claim.

7. In 2009 I sent a summary of my whooping cough vaccine research to the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) for publication in their newsletter. The PHAA drafted Peter McIntyre to write a response to my article and both were published (side-by-side) in the PHAA newsletter April 2009. My article was fully referenced. However, this PHAA newsletter does not require references and Peter McIntyre did not provide me with a fully referenced copy of the claims he made in his response article. To date I have not seen references that support his claims that were published in 2009. This is important because any references used to support his claims that are published *after* 2009 can be designed from an apriori position.
8. At this time (2009) Peter McIntyre asked me to attend the NCIRS to present my research. He said he would ask his secretary to make a time and date for this to occur. However, I did not receive any notification of a date or time from his secretary. This was witnessed by academics at Murdoch University. Please ask him to provide evidence that I 'turned down this opportunity' as I was grateful to receive such an invitation but he never provided me with a date or time for this to occur.
9. Please also ask him for the evidence that 'JW was not willing to take part in any objective scrutiny of the evidence.' My PhD thesis describing the evidence I have presented is published on the UOW repository with open access for this purpose. In contrast Professor Peter McIntyre did not give permission for his 1994 PhD on the HIB vaccine to be published in open access in the University of Sydney repository when I requested this in July 2016 (Appendix 1). Peter McIntyre's PhD thesis is only accessible to students who request the thesis via document delivery and not to the general community for open scrutiny of the science.
10. Further Peter McIntyre, along with ~45 other government and public health officials, declined to attend a public forum at the University of Technology, Sydney in October 2015 to debate the science in the government's vaccination polices. This evidence supports the conclusion that it is Peter McIntyre who is not willing to take part in objective scrutiny of the science.
11. Peter McIntyre admits to being the author of a letter presented by the lobby group, the Friends of Science in Medicine, to the University of Wollongong that requested the removal of my PhD in January 2016. This letter questioned the quality and validity of acceptance of my PhD by UOW. This petition was presented in January 2016 - one

week after my thesis was published on the UOW website - and this did not allow time for these activists to have read or debated the scientific arguments in my PhD thesis. Please note that Peter McIntyre's request to remove the PhD failed because all the correct procedures were followed for the assessment of my PhD and because the scientific arguments I have presented are supported by academics at both national and international universities. The UOW stated that it ‘stands by this research’.

12. PM's claim that my expertise is confined to 'consideration ...of deficiencies about how policy is made' is false. Not only does Peter McIntyre agree that there are deficiencies in this area but he makes false assertions about the focus of my investigation into vaccination policies. My PhD investigates the undone science in government vaccination policies and not a 'presentation of pre-conceived notions with selective citation of references' as Peter McIntyre has inaccurately claimed.
13. It is the government that is using selective references to support the use of vaccines in mandatory and coercive vaccination policies. Peter McIntyre's claims about my research are made by ignoring the scientific evidence and arguments that myself and many others are presenting in peer-reviewed scientific journals.
14. The reference that Peter McIntyre makes to Wikipedia and to the UOW website to claim that these official channels are disputing my scientific arguments is deceptive and inaccurate. This is because powerful industry lobby groups have influence in these official channels for disseminating knowledge. These channels are being misused by industry-associated lobby groups to educate the public using false and misleading claims about vaccines. This practice is known as agnotology and it is the promotion of cultural ignorance in the community by educating the public with assumptions about vaccines that are not evidence-based. The evidence for this statement is provided in Chapters 8 and 6 of my PhD thesis.
15. An example of the agnotology that is occurring in the promotion of vaccines is the way in which the University of Wollongong logo is being used to promote the Australian government’s claims about vaccines. This promotion of the government’s immunisation program was put up one week after my PhD thesis was published on the university website in January 2016. This promotion by UOW Professor Heather Yeatman, the head of the School of Public Health (2006-2018), is titled ‘Experts unite behind evidence supporting immunisation’ and she was permitted to promote the government’s claims of the safety and efficacy of vaccines, even though neither she nor the ~ 60 UOW academics who have signed their names to this promotion, have

ever researched vaccination science in-depth or read and debated my PhD thesis. This promotion of vaccination policies on the UOW website is deceiving the public about the safety and efficacy of vaccines because these UOW academics are not experts on vaccination science or policy and they have never investigated the government's claims about vaccines in any published research on this topic. Professor Heather Yeatman's area of expertise is nutrition and this does not entitle her to speak on the topic of vaccine safety and efficacy because this is outside her area of expertise.

16. In 2014 a leader of the Australian Skeptics/SAVN lobby group, Dr. John Cunningham, fabricated allegations of academic misconduct about my whooping cough research (completed in 2006) and submitted an anonymous complaint to the UOW about my research. This complaint was investigated by the University of Wollongong by breaching the university's own complaint procedures. The complaint was investigated even though Dr. John Cunningham did not provide any evidence of academic misconduct. The UOW apologised to me for the misuse of their complaint procedures (Appendix 2) and provided me with financial compensation for the false information that was provided in the mainstream media by 'anonymous medical experts'. This was provided to the media before the confidential investigation by UOW was completed.
17. Peter McIntyre has conflicts of interest in government vaccination programs due to his role as the deputy/director of the government NCIRS for 20 years from 1998 – 2017. This role involves his participation in industry-funded safety and efficacy trials of vaccines with research grants provided by GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, and Pfizer. These financial conflicts of interest for Peter McIntyre are listed in the latest Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) conflict of interest statement (Appendix 3). During his 20 years at the NCIRS he has been influential in recommending vaccines for the national immunisation program (NIP). There is no independent body providing over-sight of the industry-funded science that is being used to recommend vaccines to the NIP and whilst he has retired as director of the NCIRS this year he is still listed as a member of the NCIRS advisory board and the scientific advisory committee in 2018.
18. The NCIRS works with the industry-funded Immunisation Coalition and there is no transparency or accountability in the science used for recommendations to the government vaccination program. Here is an example of the industry-funding of vaccination trials from 2012: Professor Peter McIntyre's National Centre for

Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) project for the study of pertussis vaccines for newborns was granted $1.5 million of which more than $750,000 in kind was provided by GSK for monovalent vaccine and laboratory testing.