



## **Newsletter 164 ABC Journalist, Emma Alberici, Peddling False Information on Vaccines**

30 June 2017

On 26 June 2017, Emma Alberici, wrote a story for the ABC titled 'Why do politicians get away with peddling porkies and 'alternative facts'. This is interesting because she is demonstrating the answer with her own misinformed story. The health of a community is at risk when journalists are no longer held accountable for the misinformation they provide on health and environmental subjects.

In her story she states that Senator Hanson suggested there "might be a link between vaccination and autism - only to apologise for her remarks". In fact, Pauline Hanson's statement is correct and it is supported by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). And Pauline Hanson did not apologise for this particular remark, she apologised for another comment. This statement is completely true - Vaccines 'might' be a cause of autism and a causal link has been found in data by the US CDC. Just investigate "Vaxxed: From Cover up to Catastrophe". There are also many scientific studies linking vaccines as a plausible cause of autism, but Emma Alberici, cannot produce a single study that proves vaccines do not cause autism. This is critical to claiming that vaccines do not cause autism. It is also critical for any policy that is being claimed to be based on "the best available scientific evidence".

A good investigative journalist would not rely on health statements made by politicians or lobby group activists to base their story but they would investigate both sides of the academic debate. This journalist concludes by saying 'You need only look to the tobacco industry. Think of how many people died believing smoking cigarettes did not cause cancer.' She should also have added that this was because doctors were promoting cigarettes as healthy products for many decades.

I hope Emma Alberici can provide a study that proves vaccines do not cause autism because otherwise she is providing porkies to the public about a very important health issue.

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