

# Newsletter 68 The Removal of Informed Consent in Australia

The Australian Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, has recently announced he will be introducing policies to prevent parents who choose not to vaccinate from receiving [government welfare benefits](#) by removing the philosophical exemption to vaccination. The media is presenting this as addressing the 'anti-vaccination movement'. But this is incorrect. These policies are attacking the right to free and informed consent of a medical intervention: a right that is embedded in the Good Medical Practice guidelines for doctors and the International Bill of Human Rights that applies to all countries.

The [New Zealand Prime Minister](#) stated (13 April 2015) they will not be following Australia's lead because "it would be an unjustifiable breach of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act".

To protect public health, medical interventions need to be promoted on *free* and informed consent and scientific evidence, not financial incentives that target the less wealthy in the community. Australia's policies that link vaccination to welfare benefits and a doctor's signature, breach all international codes for human rights. The government data also shows that it is the educated, wealthy members of the community that are choosing not to vaccinate, so why is the government implementing policies that discriminate against the less wealthy members of the community?

The government's policy is not targeting people who are 'anti-vaccination' as the media is claiming but people who are pro-choice in medical interventions and the use of an expanding number of vaccines. Please sign this [petition](#) to protect our right to *free and informed* consent to vaccination - a medical intervention.

## Vaccines are a Plausible Cause of Autism

The issue of vaccines as a cause of autism has not been fully explored and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) has not disproven this theory. You'll note in the statement from the IOM that they 'favour' the rejection of the theory on the basis that the mechanism has not been determined. They do not say that

## The Response of Australia's Human Rights Commission (HRC)

Here is the [response](#) I received from the HRC when I asked Australia's Human Rights Commissioner, Tim Wilson, if the government's vaccination and welfare policies conformed with the international right to free and informed consent:  
"Unfortunately I am not in a position to make

the theory has been [disproven](#). Public health is at risk with the removal of free and informed consent for this medical practice. Damage from vaccines is not disputed but the question of how much damage *is* disputed. Please read the information in this [newsletter](#) that illustrates that the link between vaccines and autism has not been fully explored or disproven. The Australian Government's removal of the free and informed consent to vaccination breaches the 'Valid Consent' section of Australia's Immunisation Handbook ([Ed. 10, section 2.1.3](#)) as well as the Nuremberg Code that was specifically designed to prevent experimentation on the population.

comment on the legality of the Government's vaccination policies'.

It would appear that Australia's Human Rights Commission is not paid to protect this fundamental human right. In addition, the Australian media will not present this perspective of the vaccination debate. This is described with examples on my [website](#).

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