

# Newsletter 72 Biased Reporting on the ABC Breakfast Program

To the ABC Breakfast Presenters:  
Virginia Trioli and Michael Rowland

On 29 May 2015 you [interviewed](#) the popular cartoonist Michael Leunig about his cartoons advocating freedom of speech and informed consent in vaccination. You dismissed the right of individuals to choose how many vaccines they use by claiming that the 'science is proven' and that anti-vaccination arguments have been discredited and "expunged from the medical literature". This is incorrect. The medical record is full of the [risks of vaccination](#) and the only place from which the arguments have been "expunged" is the [mainstream Australian media](#). 70% of the Australian media is owned by Rupert Murdoch and there have been recent changes to the editorial board of the ABC. The Australian Communications and Media Authority ([ACMA](#)) has openly declared that journalists only need to present one side of the vaccination debate. There are 2 sides to every scientific debate and the suppression of the medical research by the Australian media is presenting propaganda that endangers public health. The question is not *whether* vaccines cause harm but *how much harm* is being caused.

Please could you tell us why the Australian media has not presented for debate the government's intention to [remove religious and philosophical exemptions](#) from the Abbott government's new childcare package?

Our right to privacy covers our right to control what we put into our own bodies. This right is protected in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) yet its removal from the new childcare package has not been discussed by the media. This is the right to informed consent for medical interventions that is covered in the Nuremberg Code (1947) and the [Geneva Declaration \(Physicians Oath\)](#) to prevent harm to the population. This right has been removed in the new \$3.6 billion childcare package but apparently this new legislation is not newsworthy. I have also presented these human rights concerns to the [Australian Human Rights Commission](#) but no explanation has been provided for removing these human rights.

Please could you tell us why Australians are not being informed about this social welfare issue in a transparent manner in the Australian media? The public has a right to access social security for family/ child support, without discrimination. This is covered in Article 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Yet the Abbott government's new "Choices for Families" package will discriminate against educated parents who are choosing to keep their children healthy (and free of disability) by not using vaccines. The medical literature is full of the [dangers of giving children 12 vaccines](#) in the first year of life: starting from birth. Yet our right to choose this medical procedure is being removed (without publicity) and governments are using coercive and discriminatory policies to enforce this procedure on the population.

I am concerned that the mainstream media is not reporting on this issue and so is the [global community](#). The ABC interview with Michael Leunig presented propaganda to the public about science and vaccination, and this is endangering public health. I hope you will also read this article in the *Guardian* about the [Trans-Pacific Partnership](#) that will also have serious consequences for public health if it is signed.

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