



Elizabeth Hart <eliz.hart25@gmail.com>

Conflicts of interest and the Immunisation Coalition / APACI

Elizabeth Hart <eliz.hart25@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 7, 2020 at 5:27 PM

To: Kim Sampson <kim@isg.org.au>, kim@apaci.asia

Cc: president@ama.com.au, statz@ama.com.au

For the attention of:

Dr Rod Pearce GP, Chairman of the Immunisation Coalition

Mr Kim Sampson, CEO of the Immunisation Coalition

Dear Dr Pearce and Mr Sampson, FYI, please see below my email to Dr Tony Bartone, President of the Australian Medical Association and a member of the vaccine industry-funded Immunisation Coalition, (which is also associated with the Australian Medical Association), challenging Dr Bartone about lack of disclosure of conflicts of interest and other matters.

People associated with the vaccine-industry funded Immunisation Coalition are outspoken in the media, e.g. Tony Bartone, Rod Pearce, Kim Sampson, Robert Booy, Margie Danchin, Raina MacIntyre, Paul Van Buynder etc. These people use their professional credentials to influence discussion on vaccination policy, a discussion which is often barred to the general public and taxpayers in this country. People with a medical degree or professional affiliation are not automatically 'experts in vaccination', i.e. across the ever-increasing number of vaccine products and revaccinations on the schedule. **There needs to be more scrutiny and accountability for people dominating discussion relevant to taxpayer-funded vaccination policy.**

Dr Pearce and Mr Sampson, **people associated with the vaccine industry-funded Immunisation Coalition should disclose their conflicts of interest when they discuss matters relevant to taxpayer-funded vaccination policy, i.e. they should clearly disclose they are associated with an organisation which is funded by vaccine manufacturers.**

I suggest this information on an [Immunisation Coalition National Media Alert](#) promoting flu vaccines (2 April 2020) is **not transparent about the Immunisation Coalition's sponsorship and support relationships with companies associated with vaccines and the vaccine industry, i.e. GlaxoSmithKline, Seqirus/CSL, MSD (aka Merck), Pfizer, Sanofi, Apotex, and EBOS, plus Google:**

About Immunisation Coalition

The Immunisation Coalition is a not for profit advocacy group with a mission to create awareness about the importance of immunisation. Immunisation still provides the best protection against infectious diseases. We work with consumers, health professionals and organisations with an interest in immunisation and government health agencies, ensuring that the information provided to consumers through our website and other communication channels is current, easily understood and scientifically informed.

Again, the Immunisation Coalition and its associates must properly disclose conflicts of interest. People associated with the Immunisation Coalition should also properly disclose their professional affiliations. I raised this matter with Mr Sampson previously (22 January 2019), but there is still no transparency on the 'About us' webpage.

Can you please bring these matters to the attention of your directors and members, and of course it is relevant to both of you also.

This is also relevant to the Asia-Pacific Alliance for the Control of Influenza (APACI), with which you are both associated, along with the vaccine industry.

I would appreciate your response on this matter.

Also Dr Pearce and Mr Sampson, as you are both described as 'experts' on the [Media Alert](#) referred to above, **can you please provide me with a summary of your expertise in vaccine products?**

Please see below my email to Dr Tony Bartone, which also includes my email to Peter Costello on the subject of vaccination, the media, and conflicts of interest.

This correspondence is being circulated to other parties for information.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Hart

Independent citizen investigating conflicts of interest in vaccination policy and the over-use of vaccine products

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elizabeth Hart** <eliz.hart25@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Jul 4, 2020 at 5:22 PM

Subject: Re: 'Act now': AMA urges health education to combat 'growing' anti-vaxxer movement

To: <president@ama.com.au>

Cc: <koslowskimax@gmail.com>, <letters@smh.com.au>, <letters@theage.com.au>, <lisa.davies@smh.com.au>

For the attention of:

Dr Tony Bartone

- President of the Australian Medical Association (*The AMA is associated with the vaccine industry-funded Immunisation Coalition*)

- Member of the vaccine industry-funded Immunisation Coalition

Dear Dr Bartone, a few weeks ago you featured in an article in *The Sydney Morning Herald* titled: **'Act now': AMA urges health education to combat 'growing' anti-vaxxer movement**, 25 May 2020. (See copy attached.)

This is one of many articles published lately with an 'anti-vaxxer' theme.

In Max Koslowski's article you said: **"Anyone who speaks against the science of vaccination needs to expect to be slapped down by scientific sources"**.

Dr Bartone, judging by the tone of your comments in Max Koslowski's article, **you are very antagonistic towards anyone questioning vaccine products.**

It's notable you are a member of the vaccine industry-funded Immunisation Coalition, which is funded by vaccine manufacturers CSL/Seqirus, GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer, MSD (Merck) and Sanofi. **Why wasn't this conflict of interest disclosed in Max Koslowski's article, along with the fact the Australian Medical Association is also associated with the vaccine industry-funded Immunisation Coalition?**

Dr Bartone, I understand you are a General Practitioner. **Can you please advise me:**

- What expertise do you have in the ever-increasing number of vaccine products and revaccinations on the [National Immunisation Program Schedule](#), including the long-term cumulative effects of all these products throughout life, and adverse events after vaccination?
- Do you think people should be forbidden from asking questions about the burgeoning number of vaccine products and revaccinations on the taxpayer-funded schedule in Australia, one of the most highly-vaccinated countries in the world?
- **Do you think people should be forbidden from questioning the possibility of compulsory fast-tracked coronavirus vaccine products?** Are you aware that [compulsory coronavirus vaccination is being pushed by Jane Halton, an adviser to Prime Minister Scott Morrison](#) on the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission? **Jane Halton has a conflict of interest via her role as Chair of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), which is involved in vaccine development, including nine partnerships with industry to develop vaccines against COVID-19.**
- Do you think it appropriate that people who raise questions about vaccination policy are denigrated and marginalised as 'anti-vaxxers', **that they are 'slapped down' as you recommend?**
- Are you aware that children and adults have experienced adverse events after vaccination, for example as reported in the TGA's Database of Adverse Event Notifications?
- Are you aware the TGA acknowledges [adverse events are likely to be under-reported?](#)

Dr Bartone, the AMA generally supported the No Jab, No Pay Bill 2015, i.e. the AMA supported coercive vaccination (AMA Submission 544.) **You no doubt recall Murdoch-run News Corp tabloids such as *The Daily Telegraph*, *Herald Sun* etc, were behind the No Jab, No Play media campaign, which was obligingly adopted as policy by politicians across the political spectrum in Australia.** The No Jab, No Pay policy was announced by then Social

Services Minister Scott Morrison and then Prime Minister Tony Abbott in April 2015, and enacted as the coercive No Jab, No Pay law under Malcolm Turnbull as Prime Minister in January 2016.

Are you aware that Murdoch-run News Corp is a corporate partner of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), which is involved in vaccine product research and development? Do you understand the conflict of interest in News Corp tabloids lobbying the Australian government to mandate vaccine products while News Corp is a corporate partner with a vaccine developer, i.e. MCRI? (Rupert Murdoch's mother Dame Elisabeth Murdoch was involved with the founding of the original institute, and Sarah Murdoch is a member of the Board and the Ambassador for the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.) Along with the influence of members of the vaccine industry-funded Immunisation Coalition, the News Corp / MCRI relationship is a most significant example of a serious conflict of interest impacting on taxpayer-funded vaccination policy in Australia.

Others in the science and medical establishment in Australia were also supportive of the coercive No Jab, No Pay law, e.g. members of the coercive vaccination lobby groups SAVN and Friends of Science in Medicine, e.g. John Cunningham and David Hawkes, who were influential at the Senate Committee hearing re the No Jab, No Pay Bill in November 2015, which was attended by SAVN supporter, and former General Practitioner, Senator Richard Di Natale. As far as I'm aware, neither John Cunningham, David Hawkes, nor Senator Di Natale, are experts in the wide range of vaccine products on the National Immunisation Program Schedule.

Dr Bartone, I strongly suspect you are not an 'expert in vaccination', and I request you stop 'slapping down' people who are seeking transparency and accountability for vaccination policy.

There are serious problems with taxpayer-funded vaccination policy in Australia, including conflicts of interest. Vaccine products are medical interventions, an ever-increasing number of which are being pressed upon mass populations of children and adults. **It is most concerning that conflicted doctors such as yourself are deliberately hindering public discussion in this area.**

I request your response to my questions outlined above - you are using your role as President of the AMA to promote your views, and you are accountable to the community in this regard, including your conflicts of interest.

Please note I have referred to Max Koslowski's article, and you and the AMA, in my recent email to Peter Costello, which raises the subject of his conflicts of interest re the Future Fund and Nine Entertainment co, please see below for your information.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Hart

Independent citizen investigating conflicts of interest in vaccination policy and the over-use of vaccine products

For the attention of: (16 June 2020)

Mr Peter Costello
Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Future Fund
Non-Executive Chairman of Nine Entertainment Co

Dear Mr Costello

It appears you have alarming conflicts of interest in your roles as Independent Non-Executive Chairman of Nine Entertainment Co, and Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Future Fund.

Nine Entertainment Co's media promotes biased articles on vaccination, which ignore citizens' valid concerns about vaccination policy and the burgeoning number of vaccine products being added to schedules without consultation, while the Future Fund has over a billion dollars invested in companies which inter alia manufacture lucrative vaccine products, i.e. CSL, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and Merck.

Consider below recent articles published in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and other publications, which are generally couched as attacks on 'anti-vaxxers', and fail to provide critical analysis of complicated matters relevant to taxpayer-funded vaccination policy, i.e.

- **'Dangerous': Researchers note 'massive uptick' in anti-vaccination activity.** Wendy Tuohy, 14 June 2020
- **Government must counter misinformation on vaccinations.** The Herald's View, 14 June 2020
- **Experts warn of new strains of misinformation as COVID-19 seeds conspiracy theories.** Tim Biggs, 8 June 2020
- **'Slap them down' or hear them out: How to handle misinformation 'superspreaders'?** Wendy Tuohy, 31 May 2020
- **'Act now': AMA urges health education to combat 'growing' anti-vaxxer movement.** Max Koslowski, 25 May 2020

- **Federal ministers flooded with unprecedented level of anti-vaccination mail.** Max Koslowski, 24 May 2020
- **Queensland bans NRL players who refuse flu jab on non-medical grounds.** Laine Clark and Scott Bailey, 12 May 2020
- **Flu-jab duo face potential pay freeze as NRL, Titans brace for courtroom showdown.** Michael Chammas and Sarah Keoghan, 11 May 2020
- **Anti-vaccination activists use coronavirus to push resistance to inoculation.** Peter Jamison, 6 May 2020
- **Vaccination-sceptic political party wins name change despite heavyweight objectors.** Zach Hope, 2 May 2020
- **'Anti-vaxxers stay home': Health Minister issues warning, announces new flu vaccine program for all primary school children.** Lauren Pilat, 27 April 2020
- **'Absolutely insane': Anti-vaxxers promote coronavirus conspiracies.** Caitlin Fitzsimmons and Tom Rabe, 20 April 2020

Meanwhile, CSL/Seqirus receives product promotion and endorsement courtesy of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, i.e. **'There will be enough': CSL to hit record flu vaccine production.** (Emma Koehn, 19 April 2020.)

Did CSL/Seqirus play for this flu vaccine product promotion in *The Sydney Morning Herald*?

Mr Costello, the Future Fund has invested over a billion dollars in companies which inter alia manufacture vaccine products - **it appears you have a conflict of interest in also being Chairman of a corporate media group which discredits and marginalises citizens who question taxpayer-funded vaccination policy, reflexively labelling them as 'anti-vaccination'.** CSL shares valued at \$674 million, plus Pfizer shares worth more than \$265 million, \$251 million of Johnson and Johnson shares, and over \$134 million of shares in Merck were equity holdings of the Future Fund Board of Guardians as at 30 June 2019: <https://www.futurefund.gov.au/-/media/future-fund---documents/largest-listed-equity-holdings/20190630---top-100-direct-listed-equity-holdings.ashx?la=en&hash=68B5BBE149ACF3BCA3A204E22BD72E0B2FB232A8>

\$310 million worth of Facebook shares are also listed in the Future Fund portfolio, and it is notable that Facebook is now hindering citizens' free discussion of matters relevant to vaccine products and policy with its self-appointed 'fact-checkers'.

Mr Costello, many groups around the world are now working on fast-tracking coronavirus vaccine products, being led by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and with taxpayer-funding from many governments, including at least \$352 million from the Australian government. Please note more discerning citizens will be demanding transparency and accountability for the lucrative vaccine products being pressed upon the global community. Corporate media groups such as Nine Entertainment Co will also be held accountable for biased reporting which provides unquestioning promotion for vaccine products.

In Australia, News Corp also promotes biased coverage of vaccination matters, without disclosing its own conflict of interest in being a corporate partner of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, an organisation which is involved in vaccine product research and development. Rupert Murdoch's mother Dame Elisabeth Murdoch was involved in the establishment of the original Murdoch Institute, and today Sarah Murdoch is a member of the Board and the Ambassador for the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. News Corp tabloids were behind the No Jab, No Play media campaign, which was obligingly adopted as policy by politicians across the political spectrum in Australia, and enacted as the coercive No Jab, No Pay law under Malcolm Turnbull as Prime Minister in January 2016. Members of the coercive vaccination lobby groups SAVN and Friends of Science in Medicine, e.g. John Cunningham and David Hawkes, were influential at the Senate Committee hearing re the No Jab, No Pay Bill in November 2015, which was attended by SAVN supporter Senator Richard Di Natale.

Mr Costello, biased corporate media groups in Australia have failed to provide critical analysis of taxpayer-funded vaccination policy, an area which is awash with conflicts of interest, a situation that has been allowed to fester under both Liberal/Coalition and Labor governments, including during your tenure as a Liberal Member of Parliament. Likewise the taxpayer-funded ABC and SBS have failed to provide critical analysis of vaccination policy, simply acting as unquestioning promoters of vaccine products via their news articles and broadcasts.

I have recently written to Prime Minister Scott Morrison requesting transparency for the various committees and organisations influencing vaccination policy, e.g. the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation; the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee; the National Centre for Immunisation Research & Surveillance; the TGA's Advisory Committee on Vaccines; the TGA's Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee; the Murdoch Children's Research Institute; the Telethon Kids Institute; the Working Group and Oversight Committee for the Australian Academy of Science publication *The Science of Immunisation: Questions and Answers*; and any other group or organisation influential on Australian vaccination policy.

It's also notable that members of the industry-funded Immunisation Coalition are very influential in the media and on policy, but seldom disclose that this organisation is funded by vaccine manufacturers Seqirus/CSL, Pfizer, Merck (MSD), GlaxoSmithKline and Sanofi. The Immunisation Coalition is also associated with the Australian Medical Association, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and other medical organisations, and is also sponsored by Google and others. Dr Tony Bartone, the current President of the Australian Medical Association, is an Immunisation Coalition member, a fact which is seldom disclosed in media articles. Other members of the Immunisation Coalition who are frequently provided with a soapbox in the media include Professor Robert Booy, Associate Professor Margie Danchin, Dr Katie Attwell and current Chair Dr Rod Pearce, but they seldom disclose they are associated with a vaccine industry-funded organisation.

I have repeatedly brought many matters of concern about vaccination policy to the attention of journalists in Australia, including at *The Sydney Morning Herald*, and the taxpayer-funded ABC, but there appears to be a determination to ignore conflicts of interest in vaccination policy, and emerging problems with vaccine products.

Mr Costello, please be aware of your conflicts of interest via the Future Fund, and in your position as Chairman of Nine Entertainment Co, and ensure that its media interests fulfil the ideal of the fourth estate and provide balanced and considered analysis of matters relevant to national and international vaccination policy.

I request your response on this matter.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Hart

Independent citizen investigating conflicts of interest in vaccination policy and the over-use of vaccine products



'Act now' _ AMA urges health education to combat 'growing' anti-vaxxer movement.pdf

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