Addition information regarding APVO application against Mr Bowditch:

For several years, I have been the victim of Mr Bowditch's harassment and abuse as outlined in my previous submission.

His approaches have led me to fear for my safety. I believe that this was his intention in making these approaches and despite my requesting him to stop he continues to write to me, intimidate and harass me.

His approaches have not only been distressing, but they have been very public, leading to several of his associates considering me to be 'fair game' and likewise harassing and bullying me over the internet, via letters and pornography sent by Australia Post as well as by threatening phone calls. I believe that Mr Bowditch has incited others through his open belief that it is OK to harass me. This has led me to be fearful and to be quite intimidated by his ongoing aggressive approaches.

I also believe this his behaviour has constituted stalking and have demonstrated a couple examples of this in the body of this supplementary submission.

Supplementary notes on the submission of Meryl Dorey

Since first filing an APVO against Mr Peter Bowditch, there has been a steady stream of what I consider to be harassing and threatening posts which have been publicly made by Mr Bowditch. Please see below for a selection of these posts. (Please note – in the first post, my surname is Dorey and I believe Mr Bowditch was referring to that in his conversation with Maureen Chuck).
Below are several blog posts written by Mr Bowditch and published on his blog (http://www.ratbags.com/rsoles/) about the current APVO action. I believe that these posts constitute stalking – especially the letters Mr Bowditch wrote to two songwriters after a programme where I appeared used snippets of their songs during the break. Mr Bowditch has a long history of this sort of stalking behaviour, openly contacting venues where I will be speaking to ask them to cancel my talks, contacting people who support my organisation and myself to ask them to withdraw that support and discussing ways to hack my website and blog in order to prevent others from finding us. (there are screenshots in my original submission which cover this sort of approach) and even trying to arrange for his supporters to ‘attend’ court cases where I would be testifying (including this APVO mention).

Put those tinfoil hats on (22/9/2012)

When you take legal action against someone you are usually advised by your lawyers to keep quiet about it until the matter gets to court. Apparently this advice hasn’t reached Ms Meryl Dorey of the Australian Vaccination Network. On September 5 she initiated action against three people, with the first court appearance scheduled for September 27. (This is what is called a "mention" - it is a court date to set the real date.) On September 20, Ms Dorey went on a conspiracy radio program to discuss her persecution. Not her persecution of others through the courts, the persecution of her by people who don't agree with her. Here is an extract from the conversation.

That’s right. And it’s been going on for over three years, Leon. It’s amazing. I’m sure a lot of your listeners would have heard about Charlotte Dawson and how she was targeted by trolls on twitter and tried to commit
suicide because of it. And there was a football player — excuse me, I don’t follow sport so I don’t remember his name — but he was also targeted by internet trolls and the police took immediate action in both of these cases, and yet we have made, I think, six reports to the police over the last three years on similar but even more violent threats against myself and against other AVN members and against the organisation in general. And the authorities to date have still not taken any action.

And I have just finally taken the step of filing — they call them APVO’s, apprehended violence orders — against three of these individuals and I’m going to court next week for that very issue. It is wrong, it’s criminal and these people should be held accountable for what they do. We are trying to conduct a scientific debate about an issue that affects every man, woman, child, and their dog, in Australia and around the world, and intimidation, threats of violence, violent pornography, these are the sorts of things that the other side are using. Now, if you have information, if you have facts at your fingertips, you don’t use these tactics. You only use these tactics if you have nothing. And that’s what the other side has, they have nothing. They have no information, they have no facts, and they don’t want anyone to be able to access the information and facts that the AVN has. And that’s it, plain and simple. And they’re using intimidation and they are doing it with the tacit consent of government agencies.

So she’s reported threats of violence to the police on several occasions and they haven’t taken action. People are harassing her and being assisted by government departments. In a message to Facebook she said of the court actions "if they don't grant the APVO, it can only mean bias on the part of the court". (The court has been advised of this allegation of potential bias. I’m sure the magistrate will be amused.)

So it's paranoia time, and what better place to express that than on a radio station which specialises in promoting paranoia and conspiracy theories. As the interviewer said in his introduction to Ms Dorey:
The crazy runs deep (24/11/2012): During the week I was told that Meryl Dorey from the Australian Vaccination Network was to appear on a radio program, possibly to discuss matters which related to an ongoing court case that is of interest to me. The radio station is called Fair Dinkum Radio and exists only on the Internet. For those not familiar with the intricacies of the Australian language, "fair dinkum" is one of those expressions (like the German "Schadenfreude") which takes a lot of words to describe to a non-native speaker, but essentially it means "in accordance with the spirit and ethos of being a true Australian". Calling someone "fair dinkum" is high praise and means the person can be trusted with your wife (but not
necessarily your daughter), your ute and your beer.

I haven't listened to the entire broadcast yet so I won't comment on what Ms Dorey had to say, but the first part was an unhinged rant by the show's host about the mass of conspiracies that are all around us. If I tell you that he likes UNESCO but hates the UN and he thinks that the Australian Commonwealth is a private corporation you might get an impression of his grasp on reality.

What I did notice, however, that the show used some iconic Australian music to reinforce it's fair dinkum qualifications. I wondered if the composers of these tunes were aware of their songs appearing as parentheses around alternating floods of mouth foam and flashes of white hot burning stupid.

The first piece of music was Rolf Harris's "Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport", a song that every Australian child learns at his mother's knee before attending kindergarten. I wrote to Rolf through his web site:

I was rather surprised to hear a totally crazy online radio program using "Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport" as its theme. As Rolf never struck me as an insane conspiracy theorist I assume the music is being used without permission. You can listen to the programs at fairdinkumradio.com

Thank you (and thank you to Rolf for the decades of entertainment.)

And his music publisher replied (the man with his finger on the copyright button):
Dear Peter

Thank you so much for your email and the information, we will certainly look into this.

You're absolutely right, "a conspiracy theorist" is certainly a title that doesn't apply to Rolf.

Again thank you for getting in touch and I send my very best wishes.

Grahame

The next musical interlude was "True Blue" by John Williamson. I think this is a bit dirge-like, but apparently Australians go weak at the knee and wet at the eye when they hear this outside the country. It actually contains the words "fair dinkum". My email to John was similar to the one sent to Rolf.

I was rather surprised to hear a totally crazy online radio program using what sounds a lot like "True Blue" as a theme. As John never struck me as an insane conspiracy theorist I assume the music is being used without permission. You can listen to the programs at fairdinkumradio.com

Thank you (and thank you to John for the years of entertainment.)

And this is what his manager had to say:
Hi Peter,

Thank you for letting us know. I personally believe it is a misuse but have sent onto John's lawyer to review and then advise our next course of action. Thanks for looking out for John, I know he would appreciate it as do I! Cheers,

David

A lawyer is involved! Wonderful. My work here is done.

Court update (6/10/2012): I received the documentation from the court this week about the application made to have an Apprehended Personal Violence Order made against me. I can confirm that I have to appear in court in Ballina, NSW, on November 15 and between now and then both sides have to supply the court with statements and evidence. Unless something unexpected happens there's not much more I can say before the court date. It's a bit far from civilisation to expect people to turn up, but here's a map if you feel like taking a trip to the north coast of New South Wales.

Dr Brian Martin – writing on the effects of these sorts of attacks

Brian Martin is professor of social sciences at the University of Wollongong, Australia. He is the author of a dozen books and hundreds of articles on dissent, nonviolent action, scientific controversies and other issues. He is vice-president of Whistleblowers Australia and hosts a large website on suppression of dissent.
Web: http://www.bmartin.cc/; email bmartin@uow.edu.au

I am attaching a copy of Dr Martin's in-depth analysis of these attacks to this submission, a piece entitled Debating Vaccination. In this article, Dr Martin discusses the sorts of tactics used by people like Mr Bowditch in order to defeat people whose opinions differ from their own. Dr Martin describes how personal attacks, intimidation and abuse are used as weapons to try to break down opposition. He discusses the failures of the authorities in dealing with these sorts
of activities due to many of them being conducted over the internet, an area which is only now starting to be regulated. This sort of regulation is reflected in the NSW Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007, No 80 under the definition of "Intimidation"

For the purposes of the Act, intimidation of a person includes:

*an approach made to the person by any means (including by telephone, telephone text messaging, e-mailing and other technologically assisted means) that causes the person to fear for his or her safety*

It is my belief that Mr Bowditch’s actions constitute a clear example of one person attempting to intimidate another – Mr Bowditch has been intimidating me for some time now.

In his latest article, Healthy Dissent (as yet unpublished), Dr Martin states that:

*The attacks on the AVN were seen by some observers as outrageous — indeed so outrageous that they became more interested in or supportive of the AVN. The AVN’s own membership learned about the attacks through regular emails. Some of them became more committed as a result. ... Even some supporters of vaccination were disgusted by SAVN’s behaviour, and spoke out about it. ... Most impressively, Dorey was able to stand up to SAVN’s abuse for several years.*

Dr Martin has said that in all of his years of involvement in attacks on community organisations and groups which hold viewpoints contrary to the government or powerful corporate bodies, the attacks against the AVN in general and myself in particular were the most vicious and sustained he had ever seen.

**Mr Bowditch’s Response dated 29 October, 2012**

In Mr Bowditch’s initial response, dated the 29th of October, 2012, he states that there was no apparent urgency to the filing of an APVO since a period of time had passed between his threats against me and my initial filing. I refute this however because I was unaware that I even had the right to file an APVO and only did so at the suggestion of the Mullumbimby Police who I had approached regarding a related matter.
In his submission, Mr Bowditch has tried to excuse his threatening behaviour by stating that, "...there is no threat there. I am highly offended by the actions of people who misrepresent the safety and effectiveness of vaccines. If I offend them then I am simply making the feeling mutual." These are the words of a person who seems to believe that a disagreement over a scientific issue entitles him to offend, harass and abuse those he disagrees with but the laws of Australia say differently.

Mr Bowditch states that, "I [Mr Bowditch] have been very visible on the internet for a long time and I learnt very early that anybody with any sort of profile can expect abuse and harsh words. ...I've learnt to live with it and so should she."

Whilst I understand that having a public profile can leave one open to greater scrutiny, I don't believe that such attention should automatically include abuse and for someone to say that they have suffered abuse and therefore, they are within their rights to give it out to others is nothing more than a bully's rationalisation.

The simple fact is that Mr Bowditch has been intimidating and harassing me for several years and this culminated in what I consider to be an outright threat that he made to me via his blog. This unprovoked threat has left me in a great deal of fear for what sort of actions this man may take and who else he may incite against myself or my family.

Peter Bowditch has been at the forefront of these activities since the very beginning and has both instigated and accelerated these attacks, showing, I believe, a total disregard for my safety and the effects his abuse has had on me personally and on my family.

I would like to ask the court to extend the current interim order against Mr Bowditch for our protection against this abusive man.

Supplementary Statement of Meryl Dorey

[Signature]
Attachment 1 – video recording of an extremely chilling and disturbing nature made by Mr Bowditch and published to YouTube.

Attachment 2 – Article by Dr Brian Martin entitled *Debating Vaccination*
My name is Kenneth James Dorey. I am the husband of Meryl Wynn Dorey. We have been married for 24 years.

For 18 years Meryl has been active as a health consumer advocate and lobbyist engaged in matters concerning vaccination. Throughout those 18 years Meryl has been criticized and occasionally abused for her work. In the last three years I have seen these attacks become increasingly more personal and violent in nature.

I have been with Meryl when she has received abuse, insults, threats and pornography and have seen the effect that they have had on her. While this abuse has come from several people there are some who seem to take an inordinate delight and satisfaction in their attacks. The overt hatred expressed in the threats and pornography has alarmed Meryl, our children and me.

Of all those who contact and harass Meryl it is my opinion that it is those of Peter Bowditch that have the most visible effect on Meryl. They are invariably of a chilling and irrational nature.

I have been with and observed Meryl when she has received numerous unwanted correspondences from Bowditch. I have witnessed Meryl’s reactions when receiving Bowditch’s correspondences and have seen that they leave Meryl invariably shaken and disturbed. Meryl has said to me on many occasions that she believes that Bowditch is irrational and dangerous and that she is afraid of him.

Because of Bowditch and others, we live in a constant atmosphere of stress and fear. We have removed our letterbox and street numbers. We sleep with batons beside our bed and do not answer phone calls from undisclosed numbers.

Statement of Kenneth James Dorey