Are parliamentarians in NSW making decisions based on what is best for their constituents or what is best for financial vested interests?

Minister for Fair Trading tells the AVN-change your name or else!

For several months now, we have been informing you about the incredible number of complaints against the AVN by the hate groups the Australian Skeptics and their splinter group, Stop the AVN. Certain government departments appear to not only be cooperating with these groups (which would be bad enough, considering the fact that they are comprised of bullies, harassers, misogynists, people who make threatening phone calls and others who believe that sending pornography to those they disagree with is a great way to carry on a scientific debate), but to be actively encouraging this sort of behaviour! In fact, many of the more prominent members of these groups are employed by government departments such as the Department of Health and openly use their work emails when harassing AVN members.

We are unsure of how much all of these investigations are costing the taxpayer but believe that it would be several million dollars at this point - an incredible waste of precious government resources.
The latest tactic being used to force the AVN to close its doors should not come as a surprise to you if you've been reading these newsletters. As you might recall, several months ago, we started to hear about complaints being filed regarding the name of our organisation - the Australian Vaccination Network. This is despite the fact that our name has been registered with the Department of Fair Trading since 1996 without any problem whatsoever. The people complaining - you will not be surprised to learn - are the members of Stop the AVN, the Australian Skeptics and the Australian Medical Association (AMA). If you would like to read a bit of the background on this situation, here are the archived newsletters:

**The AVN Asks - What's in a name?**

**Action Alert - AVN Name Change**

And here is the press release issued by the Minister for Fair Trading, Mr Anthony Roberts, about these actions - Australian Vaccination Network Ordered to Change its Name. I would also like you to read the following article from the Herald Sun which has the Minister saying that he has asked all other Australian States and Territories not to register the AVN should we decide to open our office elsewhere - an incredible amount of effort for a small group of parents and families of vaccine-injured children and adults! Minister Orders Anti-Vaccination Group to Change its Name.

I have written a blog about these efforts and what is really involved. I personally do not believe that the AVN's name is the issue nor has it ever been. It is my opinion that certain members of the government have seized on this as a quick, easy and convenient way to close our organisation down. I think that no matter what name we proposed, it would not be registered nor would we be allowed to register the AVN in any other state or nationally - not because there is something wrong with our name - but because government departments are protecting themselves against anyone who opposes their policies in a most undemocratic way.

Is Australia a democracy? It's looking less and less like one every day.

In the meantime, the AVN is working on trying to ensure that support for informed choice will still exist in Australia in 2013 - no matter what the government tries to do to stop it. Please read the rest of this important newsletter and forward it to anyone who you think would be able or willing to help out.

**A Fond Farewell**

As you would have seen in the press release that was distributed yesterday, I have now officially resigned as President of the AVN and am so very happy to say that Greg Beattie has agreed to fill that role.

I could not imagine a more qualified person to lead the AVN and I know you will all make him feel every bit as welcome as you have always
I am not leaving the AVN - I don't know if I could while there is still a threat to those of us who believe in informed choice for All Australians - but I will be stepping away from the day-to-day jobs of the Presidency and devoting myself to special projects as well as having a bit of a rest!

It's hard to believe that 19 years have passed since I sat down in my lounge room with a group of 6 other people - two of whom had children who were injured by vaccines - to start a group that would help provide information on the issue of vaccination that they wouldn't normally get from their family doctors or the government.

Yes, there have been many mistakes over the years - too many to even count. But there have also been so many things this group has achieved over that time which I am incredibly proud of and so many wonderful people I've been blessed to meet and work with over the years. In all that time, I have been buoyed by our members' involvement, by your passion to do good for others and by your willingness to always chip in with your time and your funds when you were needed.

Thank you does not even come close to expressing my deep gratitude to all of you - especially over this last 4 years when the daily attacks against the AVN and myself personally could have made those with less courage and conviction turn away. You never did. You stood firm with me - shoulder to shoulder - and gave me the strength to continue doing what needed to be done in these difficult times. Without your help and support, this group would have closed down years ago. Instead, we are here - still working for the parents of Australia, still opposing government lies and suppression, still fighting for the health rights of the families of this great land.

It is down to you that we have persevered this long - and it will be down to you that Greg's tenure as President will be a resounding success as well.

Please stay the course! I truly believe that 2013 will be the year of truth and when the evidence about the effectiveness and safety profiles of vaccination is finally clear for all to see, it will be because you never faltered; you never wavered; and you were always there to provide that beacon of light in the darkness for those who were searching.

With the deepest of respect and a great deal of love to you all,

Meryl Dorey

Will the AVN continue? With you help, it can

Informed Choice is not free...

The AVN has not asked our members for funds for some time and, as you may or may not have seen, we have removed the membership options from our website because we are in the process of reconfiguring what membership entails, what sort of support we will need from our members and how we can oppose government moves to take away the rights of Australians to freely choose what sort of healthcare they want to use for their children and themselves.

As a result, our coffers are very nearly bare.
We do not need much at the present time - we have no employees and Meryl Dorey is no longer drawing a payment as Editor of Living Wisdom magazine (more on this below) so the funds that are needed are to cover the day to day running of this organisation (phone, photocopier, postage, etc) and up-coming legal and accounting expenses which could end up being considerable or - and we are hoping this is the case - won't be anything at all if we are able to source pro-bono counsel.

I realise that this is the absolute WORST time to ask for help with Christmas just past, but if it would be possible for each of you to give $5 or $10 (more only if you can afford it) right now, it would go a long way towards helping to ensure that the AVN will still be around to protect your freedoms.

Please use the links below if paying online or, as always, you can direct deposit funds into our Westpac Account or FAX your credit card details. The AVN phone is not being manned at the present time so you will not be able to call us to make donations.

### Direct Deposits (Please do leave your name as identification)

AVN Gift Fund account
Westpac Bank
BSB - 032591
Account number - 196282
FAX - 02 6678 0894

- Donate $5 (or multiples of $5)
- Donate $10 (or multiples of $10)
- Donate $25 (or multiples of $25)
- Donate $50 (or multiples of $50)
- Donate $100 (or multiples of $100)

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Living Wisdom magazine

### Living Wisdom ceases publication

It is with a great deal of sadness and not a little regret that the AVN national committee announces that Living Wisdom magazine will no longer be published.

We are currently negotiating with several other health and lifestyle publications to continue to serve our readers and hope to have the final candidates ready to reveal to you by late next week.

If all goes according to plan, you will all be able to choose from several publications to give you the number of editions you would have been entitled to had Living Wisdom continued.

We are sorry that we will not be able to continue producing Living Wisdom. The AVN has published a newsletter first and then, a magazine since 1994 and we had planned to continue publication until our services were no longer needed. Due to the extraordinary
pressures placed on us by both the government and those organisations whose goal is to shut our group down, this will no longer be possible.

For now however, we have reintroduced AVN membership which, while it won't give you a magazine to read, will enable us to continue publishing e-newsletters (like this one), blogs and working for you and other Australians.

Membership, which will now be annual and not reliant upon magazine subscriptions, is $25 a year. If you are already a member, please don't rejoin right now - we will be contacting all members over the next couple of weeks to let them know how much time their membership has left to run and also to find out what publication they would like to select to replace the balance of their Living Wisdom subscriptions.

If your membership has lapsed however and / or you are not a member but would like to join and support the AVN, now would be a great time to do so!

Please click on the link below to be taken to our website

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Vaccination survey completed - results announced in 2013

AVN Membership Survey Completed

More than 650 AVN members completed our survey, giving us a unique insight into both the knowledge and health history of Australian families who have, for the most part, chosen either not to vaccinate or to vaccinate selectively.

The results of this survey are currently being analysed and we expect to have the results ready for publication early in 2013.

The AVN would like to thank each and every one of our members for taking the time to share your experiences, knowledge and insight with us. It will be very interesting to compare the results of this survey with the one that we conducted almost 14 years ago. If you are interested in reading the previous survey results, which includes the stories of many families whose children were seriously injured by vaccination, click here to go to A Profile of the Vaccination Awareness Movement in Australia.

We would also like to thank Trevor Wilson for helping with the study design and for carrying out the analysis.

We are also beholden to our wonderful sponsors for providing the prizes for this survey. The winners are:

CP of NSW who won the Ainsworth's Essential Remedy Kit, kindly donated by Homeopathy Plus and valued at $132.50

DG of NSW who won the Light Frequency Pyramid Pack, generously provided...
by **Australian Bushflower Essences** and valued at $195.00

WB of Victoria who won the **Progurt** Incubator and 5-Sachet starter Pack valued at $210

And lastly, to VS, BH, BB and SM, all of NSW who have all won a gorgeous hand-made pair of sterling silver earrings, donated by Allure Jewellers of Sydney.

The AVN sincerely thanks our sponsors for their generosity and our members who are always there when needed.

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**Vaccination and health in the News**

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**97% of Chicken Pox Cases in fully Vaccinated**

A county in the western part of Indiana is the site of the nation’s largest current chickenpox outbreak, according to news reports. An epidemiologist has confirmed that out of the cases analyzed, 97 percent of the children were vaccinated.

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**Council May Take Fluoride Out of Water**

FLUORIDE could go down the drain for Gold Coast residents, with the city's water boss saying he would not oppose scrapping the controversial additive. The State Government has passed legislation allowing councils to chose whether to retain fluoride in their water systems.

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**The Australian Vaccination Network Must Go Sayeth the Government**

Freedom of speech is being squashed in Australia. If what you have to say runs counter to what mainstream medicine and its lackey, the government, want promulgated, then dissenting views are being suppressed.

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**Reducing the Incidence of Grand Claims**

This is the second post in our series critiquing the new booklet "The Science of Immunisation", from the Australian Academy of Science. Here Greg Beattie takes a look at the opening statement from the summary.

"The widespread use of vaccines globally has been highly effective in reducing the incidence of infectious diseases and their associated