

# **Stop Meryl Dorey**

Investigating the claims of the misleadingly titled anti-vax group the 'Australian Vaccination Network', and its president Meryl Dorey.

In July 2010, the New South Wales based <u>Health Care Complaints Commission</u> (HCCC) declared that the anti-vaccine group known as the <u>Australian Vaccination Network</u> (AVN) provides misleading and inaccurate information on the subject of vaccination. Included in their report was the following recommendation to the AVN.

The Australian Vaccination Network should include an appropriate statement in a prominent position on its website which states:

- 1. the Australian Vaccination Network's purpose is to provide information against vaccination in order to balance what it believes is the substantial amount of pro-vaccination information available elsewhere;
- 2. the information should not be read as medical advice and;
- 3. the decision about whether or not to vaccinate should be made in consultation with a health care provider.

#### Page 02, HCCC Report, July 2010

The report is dated July 7th, 2010, and the AVN were given 14 days to implement the HCCC's recommendations. To this point, they have failed to do so. In addition, the president of the AVN, Meryl Dorey, has responded by claiming that neither she nor her organisation have ever provided medical advice, and therefore cannot be considered to be under the jurisdiction of the HCCC. You can read Meryl's complete response to the HCCC report <a href="here">here</a>.

This website was launched following the release of the HCCC's findings in an attempt to combat the dangerous misinformation and conspiracy theories being spread by the Meryl Dorey and the AVN. Stop Meryl Dorey is committed to providing honest and evidence based information. We welcome open and intelligent debate, and extend the right of reply to Meryl Dorey and members of the AVN regarding any of the information published on this website.

#### **Meryl And The Magic Water**

August 14th, 2010

No, it's not the title of the AVN presidents upcoming childrens book. It's Meryl Dorey's endorsement of homeopathy as a valid form of childhood vaccination. Meryl appeared on Perth radio station 6PR on July 19th in an attempt to promote an upcoming AVN seminar. Whilst host Howard Sattler stated repeatedly that he may not agree with Meryl's opinions, he also noted that he would defend her right to have her say. He chose to do this by giving her more than twenty minutes of air time to promote her lies and conspiracy theories during his daily drive show. In addition to her usual shtick, Meryl took a number of calls from listeners, one of whom informed her that he had chosen to vaccinate his children with "the homeopathy way of vaccinating" (clip below). Meryl applauded this caller for making what she called an "informed choice", and stated that homeopathy was a "very valid" option when it comes to vaccinating.

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Note Meryl's statement at the beginning of the clip that "vaccination is not sugar water". This is something that the scientific community and the AVN can finally agree on. Vaccines are not sugar water. But homeopathy is. Homeopathy is an alternative "medicine", and it's difficult to describe just how bat shit crazy the concept is. If you're unaware how homeopathy supposedly "works", check out the following clip from Richard Dawkins' 2007 TV documentary, 'The Enemies Of Reason'.

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So, for the record, the president of the organisation that ranks number one on a Google search for "vaccination" endorses magic water as an appropriate and valid way of protecting your children from whopping cough, measles and a range of other "harmless" diseases. Good job.

For more information about homeopathy, check out the website of the Merseyside Skeptics Society's <u>1023 campaign</u>, and see what people are saying about <u>#ten23</u> on Twitter.

Posted in Meryl Direct | No Comments »

#### **And Another Thing...**

August 8th, 2010

In the media release published by Meryl Dorey earlier today, she states the following.

Newspapers and radio stations have been reporting ridiculous lies stating that the AVN believes in reptilian aliens and mind-control chips. They got this misinformation from Mr Ken McLeod, an active member of a group that has set out to either shut our small, volunteer-run organisation down or shut us up in any way they can.

I'm not quite sure that Mr. McLeod is the source for these "ridiculous lies". It seems more likely that these newspapers and radio stations have taken the time to do a little bit of digging into the history of the AVN. Before she established the official AVN blog, Meryl Dorey ran a free blog over at http://nocompulsoryvaccination.blogspot.com/. On July 26, 2009, a post was made on said blog that contained a link to an article on the Pakistan Daily website. The original link has now expired, but the article, titled 'Flu is not the Biggest Danger it's the Vaccine', can be found by searching through the Pakistan Daily archives. The article, written by David Icke, makes the following claims:

- "The swine flu virus was created in a laboratory to generate mass panic with the specific intention of forcing everyone to have the vaccine."
- "The Austrian journalist, Jane Bürgermeister, has filed criminal charges with the FBI against the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations, Barack Obama, a Rockefeller, a Rothschild, and others, over a plot she uncovered to cull the population with a deadly swine flu vaccine."
- "There are subsidiary networks of secret societies in every country that answer to the 'Spider'. Their job is to control

their country's politics, banking, business, military, media, medicine, and so on, and introduce in their sphere of influence the global agenda dictated by the 'Spider'. Those on the inner levels of this structure are collectively known as the 'Illuminati'."

- "The Illuminati plan for the world includes a mass cull of the population and the microchipping of every man, woman and child. Microchips would allow everyone to be tracked 24/7, but it goes much further than that."
- "Computer technology communicating with the chips has the potential to manipulate people mentally, emotionally and physically. This could be done en masse or individually through the chip's unique transmitter-receiver signal. Killing someone from a distance would be a synch."

The above are direct quotes taken from the aforementioned David Icke article, which was endorsed via a direct link posted by Meryl Dorey on the AVN blog in July 2009. And whilst I'm more than happy to acknowledge that these quotes have not come directly from Meryl herself, I think it's fair to assume that the link to the article demonstrates that she has at least some level of support for the claims made within it.

Posted in <u>Uncategorized</u> | No Comments »

## **Meryl Breaks Her Silence**

August 8th, 2010

The AVN blog has been particularly quiet over the past few days, considering the increased media attention about the organisation following Wednesday nights <u>Lateline report</u>. But fear not, dear reader, as Meryl Dorey has chosen this fine Sunday afternoon to bestow upon us yet another <u>AVN media release</u>. In the document, titled 'Witchhunt of Vaccine Safety Watchdog', Meryl claims that she has been harrassed, victimised and even threatened with death by members of the Stop The AVN group. This allegation may or may not be true, and I have no information that neither confirms or denies it. Should there be any truth in Meryl's allegations, then she would be well within her rights to report the responsible individuals to the relevant authorities, and I would fully support the criminal conviction of those involved. Regardless of whether you agree with someones views or not, there is absolutely no excuse for this kind of behaviour.

But consider this for a moment. Stop The AVN is a Facebook group with a member list, at the time of writing, of 2,354 members, which anyone with a Facebook account can join. In addition they have a website that contains little more than some contact info and a link to download a PDF copy of the HCCC report. That's it. No ABN. No official registration. No head office. No board of directors. No monthly meetings. When Meryl claims that she has received death threats from members of Stop The AVN, she is neglecting (perhaps intentionally?) to mention that this group does not extend past a group of Facebook users. Those users are no doubt members of other Facebook groups, and Meryl could just as easily claim that she has received death threats from members of the Justin Bieber Appreciation Society, or the Stop Japanese Whaling group. Instead she has attempted to draw a link between the Stop The AVN group and the advocation of violence. This is a well known logical fallacy, known as an ad hominem argument. Instead of responding to the claims and arguments put forward by Stop The AVN, she instead attempts to discredit their reputation by claiming they tolerate violence. Naturally this is not true, and the Stop The AVN group can not be held responsible for the (alleged) actions of a group of yet unnamed people.

The media release goes on to cover the same tired AVN rubbish: "The Australian Vaccination Network has been vilified in the media", "Newspapers and radio stations have been reporting ridiculous lies", and "The AVN are vaccine whistleblowers". Meryl has clearly missed the irony in putting out a media release accusing the media of harassment. It will be interesting to see how said media responds to her accusations throughout the coming week.

Posted in Misinformation, News | 1 Comment »

# Meryl Dorey Awarded Stupid Quote Of The Day

August 8th, 2010

The rather prestigious honour of 'Stupid Quote Of The Day' was awarded to Meryl Dorey on July 31st, 2010 by the <a href="SkepFeeds">SkepFeeds</a> blog. The quote in question was featured in an <a href="AVN blog\_post">AVN blog\_post</a> the day before, and refers to the phone call Meryl Dorey made in an attempt to learn information about the death of Dana McCaffrey:

I have been accused of harassing this grieving family by making this call. It is my assertion however that the official from the NCAHS has not only committed a serious breach of confidentiality by informing a third party that I had contacted him; he in fact, has harassed the McCafferys by calling a grieving family to tell them that I had asked for confirmation of Dana's

diagnosis. What possible reason could he have had for taking this action.

Nuff said...

Posted in Meryl Direct | No Comments »

### **AVN's Google Ranking**

August 6th, 2010

Are you aware that a search for the term "vaccination" on Google Australia returns the Australian Vaccination Network's website as the number one result? Read that again. A known group of conspiracy theorists who are vehemently opposed to vaccination are the first thing that parents see when they attempt to research the topic of childhood vaccination online. In an attempt to reduce the Google ranking of the AVN, members of the Stop The AVN group have proposed the following campaign. Instead of pushing further traffic towards the AVN's website, any links attached to the term "australian vaccination network" should direct the user to the HCCC's public warning about the AVN, which can be found <a href="here">here</a>. The purpose of this is to attempt to get Google to return the HCCC's public warning about the AVN when the search term "australian vaccination network" is entered.

If you'd like to get involved, but you're unsure how to go about linking to the HCCC website, you can use the following HTML code:

<a href="http://www.hccc.nsw.gov.au/Publications/Media-Releases/PUBLIC-WARNING-/default.aspx">Australian Vaccination Network</a>

Posted in Misinformation | 3 Comments »

### **Vaccine Opponent Risks Charity Status**

August 5th, 2010

Following the report on last nights episode of Lateline, the Sydney Morning Herald have published the following article.

'Vaccine Opponent Risks Charity Status' by Kate Benson

The article expands on the details of the Office Of Gaming, Liquor and Racing investigation into the AVN's allegedly questionable behaviour relating to the collection of donations from its members and the public.

Posted in News | No Comments »

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#### **Stop Meryl Dorey Merch**

A selection of Stop Meryl Dorey related merchandise has been launched on Zazzle. All proceeds made from the sale of these items goes directly to Autism Spectrum Australia.

#### **VIEW STORE**

### **HCCC Report**

In July 2010, the Health Care Complaints Commission released the findings of their investigation into the Australian

Vaccination Network. You can download the report <u>here</u>.

#### **Lateline Investigates AVN**

The Australian Broadcasting Corporations 'Lateline' program recently aired a report about the HCCC investigation of the AVN. Watch it here.



#### On Twitter

- RT @reasonable\_hank Got mine. "I have a brain too" <a href="http://yfrog.com/0d33whj">http://yfrog.com/0d33whj</a> #StopAVN #stopmeryldorey // Yay!! :- ) 3404 days ago
- Stop Meryl Dorey is raising money for Autism Spectrum Australia, and I'm going to keep plugging it until you all donate! :-) #StopAVN #TAMOz 3408 days ago
- Now taking direct donations towards the Autism Spectrum Australia fund. Get in contact for relevant PayPal details. #StopAVN 3408 days ago
- If u don't want 2 purchase merch, but still want 2 donate 2 charity fund, let me know and I'll send you the relevant Paypal info. #stopAVN 3410 days ago
- #StopAVN tweeps! Got a suggestion for a piece of Stop Meryl merch? Tweet and include #stopmerylmerch hash tag. Will make as many as I can! 3411 days ago
- @htimswehttam Would love to hear suggestions. Please post under #stopmerylmerch 3411 days ago

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Questions, comments and hate mail can be sent to <u>contact@stopmeryldorey.com</u>. Please be advised that we reserve the right to publish all correspondence on this website.