

ACA NSW RESPONSE TO THE NSW PUBLIC HEALTH ACT REVIEW

- supports the continuation since 2016 of the conscientious objector's right to have their children obtain a vaccine objection exemption for enrolment in child care so long as they also be obliged to seek health practitioners beforehand in order to be made aware of the actual health benefits versus actual risks;
- also supports the restricted access to the vaccine objection form to health professionals, as long as there is corresponding public knowledge of this with parents, and that there is not an exclusive reliance on health professionals to inform parents who choose to be conscientious objectors;
- remains concerned that childcare service providers are put in an obliging position to enrol children who are not vaccinated and seek further advice on how this could be streamlined and ideally avoided;
- supports the restriction of the signing of the vaccine objection form to GPs only, requiring the provider's unique prescriber or provider number to be written/stamped on the form, and consideration of creating an offence in the Public Health Act for falsification of the vaccine objection form;
- is unclear as to why completion and lodgement of the vaccine objection forms are to be conducted annually, when it ought to be mandated that this be done immediately upon completion and on-line; and
- recommend that the NSW Department of Education be given the responsibility of verifying completed vaccine objection exemption forms are kept on file as part of its normal assessment and compliance activities in order to reduce/eliminate additional compliance activities imposed on childcare service providers.