

This response was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on *Public Health: ethical issues* between May and September 2006. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

Anon 7

QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

Question 3 Prevention of infectious diseases through vaccination

ANSWER:

My five year old daughter has not received any immunisations and she is possibly the healthiest child I know! It was a difficult decision because there is so much social pressure to conform and there is so much scare mongering from the press and the medical profession. We took it one step at a time: the first step was the deeply instinctive decision that it was wrong to inject an 8 week old baby with substances containing harmful chemicals and mercury for the purpose of achieving very dubious immunity from diseases which might actually strengthen her immune system if she was allowed to contract them naturally. She did just that : having now had measles, chicken pox, and whooping cough and to my knowledge not having passed them on to anyone! Last winter she did not have one cold or cough to speak of and unlike many of her vaccinated friends, she has not had ear infections, glu ear or asthma of any kind and has never had antibiobiotics. I thank God for my healthy child and pray that she may remain that way. I have read a lot about the vaccination issue and see as much scientific evidence against it's efficacy as I do for it. I also hear many stories of mild to severe vaccine damage. I for one would protest very hard against any suggestion of compulsory vaccination and I believe many mothers would join me. It would be a gross infringement of our liberty and a complete disempowerment of maternal and paternal instinct. I believe vaccination has already done alot of damage to our children with possible connections with all sorts of health problems in later life. One day the links may become provable and if the vaccines become compulsory the government may be dealing with many law suits. Under NO circumstances would the vaccination of children against parents wishes be justified - in fact parents should be educated much more fully about the choice they are making (pros and cons!) so that it is an informed choice.