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In addition to the often quoted 'opportunistic vaccination', where patients visiting a doctor for unrelated issues are confronted about an unmet vaccine schedule, or booster shot, and then vaccinated in that same visit, there are in fact many who actively arrange to discuss vaccination only to be patronised and intimidated, have their concerns dismissed and reasonable questions about side effects or benefits met with anything from bored indifference to open hostility.

The majority of conscientious parents certainly have many reasonable questions, including vaccine success, how to manage an adverse reaction, what signs and symptoms to be concerned about, vaccine ingredients, possible allergic reactions and previous history of reactions within their family. In addition, all vaccine administrators are required to provide the vaccine manufacturers product insert, even though this is information readily available on all vaccine company websites. Reading a vaccine product insert takes time and dedication to process, however as it prepared by the vaccine manufacturers to meet the requirements of safety regulations, reading this information provides a great deal more factual data than most practicing medicos would care to admit.

So where does your journey of discovery begin? For many expectant parents, it is too often in the final stages of birth preparation when a hospital is requiring paper work to be completed "Oh yeah, I forgot about vaccination - What? Just when my baby is born? When did that change happen? Oh well, if you say it's best - sure, why not?"

Why not indeed? For an increasing number of parents, the decision to vaccinate or not is considered and debated long before baby arrives. A couple may or may not be united on what to do, and even if they are united, are often faced with criticism, doubt and fear mongering, often from those they expect support from the most. Enquiries into vaccination can include other family's experiences, natural health professionals or practitioners, books, media, internet and information seminars. There is certainly a lot of information available for those who care to look.

The conclusions arrived at can vary - some find the journey too confronting and controversial, and dismiss any further doubts, including their own 'gut feelings'. Many others choose to wait until they have researched the matter further. Others actively reject the advertised schedule not convinced that the government or drug companies have done enough to ensure vaccine safety or effectiveness. An increasing number seek to get educated about the true nature of disease, the long history of community health, the vaccine industry and the benefits of holistic living and non-toxic disease prevention and management.

Yes, there can be much to consider, especially as the media continues to portray 'non-vaccinators' as irresponsible and negligent to the greater good of the community. Unfortunately such fear and myth is encouraged for the benefit of sensational journalism, while those family's who endure tragic vaccine side effects remain largely ignored and criticised by not just the media, but by the very medical community that encourage compliance.

Vaccination is hailed as an unquestionable, scientific institution focused only on the greater good of community health. Government bodies issue so much faith that they protect the manufacturers from any legal responsibility for any error or damage incurred by use of its products. Is this only a personal issue? That is for you to decide. Do you have the right to make and stand by an informed choice, without intimidation? Absolutely.

VAIS Supporter and family of a vaccine damaged child.