

- 2) The 'push' by some medical defence organisations and colleges to require plaintiffs to obtain medical reports from an appointed panel. What if expert medico/legal reports are required from overseas as is usually the case in vaccine damage claims?
- 3) Lack of disclosure of 'material' risks by medical personnel on the administration of vaccines denying the right of an individual to give 'informed' consent.
- 4) Discrimination against entry of unvaccinated children to child day care centres and pre-schools in some states of Australia.
- 5) Erosion of the right of 'well' and 'healthy' individuals to choose whether they wish to undergo any preventative medical treatment (vaccination) at all under any circumstances.
- 6) Government who places a higher value on the life and health of a

child who suffers from a childhood infectious disease than the life and health of a child who suffers from a vaccine reaction by the fact, firstly, of their failure to fully recognise that these serious adverse reaction events take place to any significant degree and secondly of their failure to endorse mandatory reporting of these adverse reaction events by medical personnel.

- 7) The intending introduction of Federal laws restricting the right of parents to claim full social security benefits unless they give consent to undergo alleged preventative medical treatment (vaccination) for their children.

ACII will continue to support and provide information for vaccine injured plaintiffs and in other law matters.

To address the above mentioned issues, however, this Association re-

quires assistance by lawyers to preserve an individual's basic human right to undergo or forego alleged preventative medical treatment (vaccination) despite the growing push by government to dismantle that right. *'A particularly pernicious myth is the one that depends on the view that ends justify means. Sometimes such a view is rationalized as having produced the most good for the most people. This is blatant statism.'*²

¹ Dawbarns, Solicitors, Bank House, King's Staithe Square, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE20 1RD.

² Henry K. Beecher, M.D Boston – Jama Jan.3.1996 Vol. 195, No.1.

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ACTA conference addresses causes of human toxic chemical exposure

Peter Harding, ACTA President

Since 1993, the Australian Chemical Trauma Alliance (ACTA) has organised conferences dealing with the medical, legal, social and genetic effects of human toxic chemical exposure. ACTA supporters have suggested that the next conference should attempt to address the causes, including issues connected to and resulting from environmental contamination.

Many things associated with modern times have, through their negative aspects, an adverse impact on human health and well being. A wide range of products and activities are now considered essential to daily life and the economy of nations. However, accepting the convenience and wealth they offer is not without its cost. This is a situation which is becoming increasingly apparent with the worsening degradation and contamination of the environment, and the consequent ill effects suffered by a growing number of people.

Blackmores Ltd and ACTA wish to highlight these problems and suggest solutions. On 8 to 10 August 1997 they will do just that, with a "one of a kind" conference on the impact of a modern environment on humans. This meeting will concern itself with providing an overview of the global situation in this regard, and the keynote in-

troductory talk will be delivered by an eminent environmentalist, Dr Rosalie Bertell, President, International Institute of Concern for Public Health and Editor in Chief, International Perspectives in Public Health (IICPH). Dr Bertell also Directed the International Medical Commission – Bhopal, which investigated the aftermath of the Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, and of the International Medical Commission - Chernobyl, which convened that Tribunal on violations of the human rights of victims in Vienna, April 1996.

Dr Bertell's address will be supported by contributions from experts in various environmental specialities. The discussions and workshops that will follow during the conference will result in a series of resolutions which, having been ratified by the main assembly, will be presented to governments and NGOs as a list of recommendations.

APLA member, Chris Phillips, Solicitor, who specialises in chemical poisoning, is also presenting a paper at the conference on the "Ecological Challenge: Strategies for the New Millennium".

For more information on the conference, contact ACTA on telephone/fax (067) 25 5521. Peter Harding is the President/National Co-ordinator of ACTA.