

19th October 2010

NSW Commission for Children and Young People
Ms Lou-Anne Lind
Level 3, 407 Elizabeth Street
Surry Hills. 2010

Cc: Ms Megan Mitchell , NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People

Good morning Ms Lind,

Thank you for your letter to me of the 13th October which referenced the circumcision of my son and the fact that the 'procedure' was performed without my consent.

I again enclose my original letter to the Commission as well as my as yet unanswered letter to the Premier.

Whilst I appreciate your measured and insightful response, I'd like to point out some facts.

So, through the prism of the greatest respect to you:

I understand that altering the tide of political thinking is frequently a mind-numbingly slow process.

And I will, naturally, explore the various useful leads that you have provided me with.

I note that to demonstrate that the Commission is against the practice of non-medically indicated infant male circumcision you cite participation in the ACCG forum and a subsequent letter to the (then) Federal Minister for Health in 2007.

Is that it?

Is that the sum contribution that the NSW Commission for Children and Young People considers appropriate to address this issue?

Well, Ms Lind, I very much regret to inform you that if that is the level of protest, vigour and energy that you and the Commission deem appropriate in order to elicit some meaningful change on this issue, you are either sadly mistaken or desperately naïve.

That the legal system and medical regulatory bodies allow defenceless infant males to be treated like this is one thing.

For my son to be subjected to this injustice without my consent must rank, to any reasonable person, as an affront beyond description.

What's needed here, Ms Lind, if the Commission's charter is in fact to advance the well being and rights of children and infants, is some table banging.

Not committee meetings.

Not submissions.

Not agendas.

Not action-plans.

If you were to tell me that you were nailing your colours to the wall and had asked the Premier "*if she had responded to my letter and, if so, could she please forward you a copy as the contents are of direct interest to the Commission*", now THAT, Ms Lind, would get my attention.

THAT would show me that the Commission was indeed interested in the well-being of defenceless children and infants.

THAT would demonstrate to me that at least part of the bureaucracy was prepared to stand up and be counted.

Without that kind of substance, however, as polite and caring as your letter is, it just gets added to the bulging pile of platitudes that I have already collected.

Yours sincerely,