

13<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Department of Health and Ageing  
Ms Sally Goodspeed  
Assistant Secretary – Health in Social Policy Branch  
GPO Box 9848  
Canberra. ACT 2601

cc: The Honourable Justice Strickland - Family Law Court of Australia  
The Honourable Justice Loughnan - Family Law Court of Australia  
Mr Barry O'Farrell - NSW Premier  
Mr Greg Smith - NSW Attorney-General  
Mr David Clarke MLC – NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Justice  
Mr Warwick Marshall - Tasmanian Law Reform Institute  
Ms Megan Mitchell - NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People  
Ms Jane Worthington – SBS Television  
Ms Lou-Anne Lind - NSW Commission for Children and Young People  
Mr Paul Mason - Barrister  
Dr George Williams - Paediatrician  
Ms Justine McKay – NSW Health Care Complaints Commission  
Ms Cathy Rainsford – Commonwealth Attorney General's Department  
Mr Craig Thompson – Federal Member for Dobell  
Mr Bob Brown – Former Senator

NSW govt ref: IM11/3346 File10/005444 Matter11/003630  
AG10/06518 File 10/005444 Matter 10/007258  
AG12/01713 File 10/005444 Matter 12/001047  
M10/6577 eA1613153

NSW HCCC ref: 10/02194

AHRC ref: 209224FD:BJ

Att Gen ref: AG-MC11/13774

Re: Your reply on behalf of The Hon Tanya Plibersek regarding the circumcision of my son without my consent.

Good morning Ms Goodspeed,

Thank you for your letter dated the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2012. Your letter, as well as all other correspondence, can be viewed at [www.MyCircumcisionDisgrace.org](http://www.MyCircumcisionDisgrace.org).

I must say that it soothes me when I receive replies such as yours, having taken nearly four months to prepare, written in such measured, pragmatic tones and invariably ending with a plaintive expression of hope that the information provided has been of assistance.

- Firstly, I'd remind you that my son has been physically mutilated.
- Secondly, I'd remind you that he has been physically mutilated without my consent.
- Thirdly, the 'system', for want of a better term, seems entirely relaxed about it.

So no Ms Goodspeed, I regret that despite your hopeful sign off, the information you have provided has not been of assistance.

In my letter to Ms Plibersek I was stupid enough to mention the Attorney General's Department and the Family Law Act within the question regarding parental consent to non-medically indicated circumcision. Obviously, this left the door open for you to assess that you could not possibly comment on any issues pertaining to the jurisdiction of the Attorney General's Office or workings of the Family Law Act, thereby letting the whole issue of consent go through to the keeper. You can see that I'm relatively untrained in these matters by my leaving such an easy exit available.

We both know, however, that the issue of parental consent is discussed by various levels of government, bureaucracy and academia outside the context of the Family Law Act.

I'll not make such an amateurish mistake again.

Ms Goodspeed, without reference to the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department or any Commonwealth or State Department other than the one you speak for; without reference to any regulatory body, whether ordained at the federal or state level; without reference to any law, federal or state, any regulation or by-law or any person, living or dead; without reference to any court case or Judgement; without prejudice to any religion, creed, race, faction, minority or majority; **can you please tell me if the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing supports the proposition that male infants should be subjected to non-medically indicated circumcision without the clearest and most informed consent of both parents?**

Yours sincerely,