Elizabeth Hart

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Ms Fiona Dear
Executive Director - News & Current Affairs
Nine Network
Locked Bag 999
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Dear Ms Dear

Re: *Today* program broadcast, November 2021, featuring Dr Christopher Perry

I am writing regarding a segment broadcast on the *Today* program in November 2021, during the COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

During that broadcast, hosted by Karl Stefanovic and Ally Langdon, Dr Christopher Perry appeared in his capacity as President of the Australian Medical Association (Queensland) and made statements concerning the consequences for members of the public who declined COVID-19 vaccination. These included warnings that life would become "miserable" for those who did not comply, and that individuals could face exclusion from work and social participation.

These statements were broadcast nationally, without apparent challenge or clarification that professional standards governing medical practice in Australia require consent to medical treatment, including vaccination, to be voluntary and free from coercion. The segment did not examine the ethical implications of presenting categorical statements linking vaccination status to employment and social participation in the context of those consent obligations.

I have lodged a formal notification with the Queensland Office of the Health Ombudsman concerning Dr Perry's public conduct, and the resulting decision has been referred to the Queensland Ombudsman for review. That process concerns professional standards. My purpose in writing to Nine Network is distinct. It concerns editorial judgement and media responsibility.

I would appreciate clarification regarding the following:

- The editorial standards applied in relation to the broadcast of these statements.
- Whether consideration was given to the ethical implications of amplifying exclusionary and fear-based messaging in relation to a medical intervention.
- Whether Nine Network considered whether broadcasting such statements without challenge may have contributed to an environment of pressure inconsistent with the principle of voluntary informed consent.
- How this segment came to be arranged, including the process by which Dr Perry was invited or selected to appear and present these views.
- Whether comparable statements would be considered appropriate for broadcast today.

This correspondence is not intended to revisit public health policy. It seeks clarification regarding the role of a national broadcaster in presenting commentary that may influence public perception of medical treatment and personal autonomy.

Given the seriousness of the issues raised, I intend to publish this correspondence, and any response received, in the interests of transparency and accountability.

I would appreciate your response.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Hart
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vaccinationispolitical.net