



Hon Lawrence Springborg MP  
Minister for Health

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Dr Sarah Farrand  
Northern Rivers Vaccination Supporters Group  
Email: [NRVS.group@mail.com](mailto:NRVS.group@mail.com)

12 AUG 2014

Dear Dr Farrand

Thank you for your email dated 10 July 2014, on behalf of the Northern Rivers Vaccination Supporters Group, in relation to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Birth Centre Booklet.

I very much appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns regarding the booklet containing reference to the Australian Vaccination-Skeptics Network (AVSN) Inc. I would like to reassure you that the Government strongly supports vaccination and public health through the recently released *Queensland Immunization Strategy* and the *Blueprint for better healthcare in Queensland*. I have enclosed a copy of the strategy and the blueprint for your information.

I understand from Professor Keshwar Baboolal, Executive Director, RBWH that this version of the booklet was locally produced in 2012 at a time when the AVSN was known as the Australian Vaccination Network. The booklet is due for major review in January 2015 and was, unfortunately, not subject to the current RBWH Consumer Information Publications Procedure which came into effect from 2013.

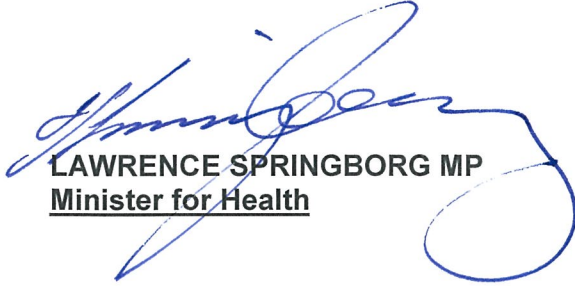
As a direct consequence of your complaint a number of steps have been undertaken:

- hard and soft copies of the booklet have been withdrawn from circulation and are not available on RBWH intranet and internet sites
- an application has been made to have an electronic copy removed from Scribd (a digital library)
- a major review and update of the booklet has been commissioned with priority. The review and update will follow current RBWH procedure. This process will ensure that any information which is not aligned with Metro North Hospital and Health Service's policies will not be allowed for publication in the booklet.
- A statewide review of publications has been undertaken, with no references to the AVSN found.

I am advised that Friends of the Birth Centre and consumer representatives have been notified of this matter and advised that the booklet has been withdrawn from circulation pending major review and update. Friends of the Birth Centre will notify public members through network and member channels.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to my attention. Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, I have arranged for Ms Tami Photinos, Nursing and Midwifery Director, Women's and Newborn Services, RBWH, on telephone (07) 3646 8257, to be available to assist you.

Yours sincerely



**LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG MP**  
**Minister for Health**