



Elizabeth Hart <eliz.hart25@gmail.com>

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## Re: Enquiry re Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)

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From: **Elizabeth Hart** <eliz.hart25@gmail.com>  
Date: Mon, Jul 23, 2012 at 8:35 AM  
Subject: Re: Enquiry re the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)  
To: Minister.Plibersek@health.gov.au, Tanya.Plibersek.MP@aph.gov.au  
Cc: julianne.quaine@aph.gov.au

Minister Plibersek

**Re: My enquiry re the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI), forwarded to Minister Nicola Roxon on 26 November 2011 (see email below)**

*Your reference: Letter from Julianne Quaine, Assistant Secretary, Health Protection Programs Branch, dated 12 January 2012*

Re the response from your Department to my enquiry re membership of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

The letter from Ms Quaine notes that details of the ATAGI's membership are available on the Immunise Australia website, but they were not there when I made my initial enquiry to then Minister Nicola Roxon on 26 November 2011.

**Question 1: Can you please advise when ATAGI membership details were uploaded to the Immunise Australia website?**

Also, my initial enquiry requested information about ATAGI members' professional affiliations, including any links with the pharmaceutical industry (e.g. research funding etc). **This information is still not recorded on the Immunise Australia website.** For instance, an article in *The Australian* (25 June 2012) titled "Pharma conflicts must be disclosed" notes:

"*The Australian* has revealed that the chairman of the Health Department's immunisation advisory committee, Terry Nolan, and fellow member Peter Richmond, supervised pediatric trials of flu vaccines for drug giant CSL, whose flu shot has been banned for the under-fives after triggering febrile convulsions."

Link:

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/health/pharma-conflicts-must-be-disclosed/story-fn59nokw-1226407029505>

In the interests of transparency and accountability, I suggest it is important that ATAGI members' relationships with the pharmaceutical industry, and any other pertinent affiliations, should be on the public record.

**Question 2: Can you please explain why this is not happening? I request that this be addressed.**

This enquiry is also relevant to my letter "[Questions re the Ethics of Australian Government Mandated Vaccination](#)" querying the second dose of the measles/mumps/rubella vaccine, forwarded to you on 28 June 2012. Receipt of my letter has not yet been acknowledged.

I look forward to your response on these matters. I request that correspondence be forwarded to my email address, i.e. [eliz.hart25@gmail.com](mailto:eliz.hart25@gmail.com)

Yours sincerely  
**Elizabeth Hart**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elizabeth Hart** <[eliz.hart25@gmail.com](mailto:eliz.hart25@gmail.com)>

Date: Sat, Nov 26, 2011 at 10:49 AM

Subject: Enquiry re Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)

To: [nicola.roxon.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:nicola.roxon.mp@aph.gov.au)

Cc: [nicola@nicolaroxonmp.com](mailto:nicola@nicolaroxonmp.com), Beate Mies <[beatemies@](mailto:beatemies@)>

For the attention of Minister Nicola Roxon

Minister Roxon

The Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing website re the Immunise Australia Program includes reference to "Immunisation Advisory Bodies", including the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

However, as far as I can see, details of membership of ATAGI are not listed on [the referenced website](#).

**Can you please advise me details of members of ATAGI, including their professional affiliations, and including any links with the pharmaceutical industry (e.g. research funding etc)?**

I assume that such details must be publicly and freely accessible to aid in transparency and accountability and to ensure there are no conflicts of interest.

I would appreciate your early response to my enquiry.

Yours sincerely  
Elizabeth Hart