

Appendix C

Attention Robyne Lunney

Hi Robyne

Thanks for speaking with me this morning Further to our conversation I would like to document what transpired following our credit card decline on Christmas eve, as follows:

1. I received a phone call from Rick Morton (journalist with The Australian) on boxing day (26th Dec) asking for my comment on our "failure" to register the name Australian Vaccination-Sceptics Network. (NB - he quoted the name to me. At no point did I quote it to him.) I told him we hadn't attempted to register it, but had reserved it with OFT. He told me it was registered by someone else. I said I had no knowledge about that. He kept pressing me for comment on what we would do now that it had failed. I said I knew nothing about it other than what he was telling me, and we would have to wait until OFT opens.

(NB - Rick Morton is not just another journalist, he is a well-known associate of "Stop the AVN").

2. Rick Morton's article appeared in the Australian <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/health-science/antivaccine-group-struggling-for-new-id/story-e6frg8y6-1226793358040#>

Full text below (the article is behind a pay wall):

"THE Australian Vaccination Network, which promotes the "benefits" of measles and believes vaccines cause autism, has lost its first battle to find a new name.

The failed attempt came just days before legislation in NSW that bans parents from enrolling children in childcare centres if they can't provide immunisation records, or a legitimate exemption, took effect.

The NSW Department of Fair Trading last year ordered the anti-vaccine group to change its misleading name by next month.

The network lost a final appeal against the decision in November.

The Australian has identified a failed attempt by the organisation to "reserve" the name Australian Vaccination - Sceptics Network with the Australian Securities & Investments Commission.

In the wake of the failed attempt, other members of the public rushed to register the name as well as Australian Vaccination Sceptics.

Network president Greg Beattie said he "did not care" whether the attempt at a new name provoked more attempts to expose the group as unscientific. "We have reserved the name but we haven't registered it," he said. "We have to have a meeting first to find out what the members want to do and we are in the process of going through that at the moment.

"I don't really care if the sceptics have a problem with it ... the AVN is a bit sceptical of vaccines. Actually, we are quite sceptical."

In her findings in the Administrative Decisions Tribunal in November, magistrate Nancy Hennessy said the group was not balanced.

Ken McLeod, one of the leaders of a group called Stop the Anti-Vaccination Network, said any use of the word "sceptics" in the organisation's new name would be dishonest. "We object to them using any variation of the term because sceptics gather evidence to make an informed choice. The AVN does nothing of the sort," he said. "If they went ahead with this, we would consider putting in a complaint to the Fair Trading Minister."

AVN members have mocked disease-related deaths of children and spruiked a herbal product called black salve as a cancer cure."

(NB - this journalist quoted the exact name (including the hyphen) that we had reserved with OFT. I had never told him what the name was, and I have a recording of the call to prove that. Only Meryl Dorey, myself and OFT knew the particulars of the name prior to this publication.)

3. Members of "Stop the AVN" started bragging publicly about how they had done this. <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10152132339803588&set=a.144130563587.111188.143367983587&type=1>

The chap who registered our exact proposed name wrote a blog about it. <http://www.danbuzzard.net/journal/>

avn-fails-to-obtain-new-name.html?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

4. The same man wrote a letter to us (please see attached letter buzzard.pdf)

5. More media outlets phoned me in response to Rick Morton's article. They all referred to our "failed attempt" to register the name. I told them all that no one really knows the situation until OFT opens again for business. Here are a couple (no need to read/listen unless you want to).

6pr radio - audio available: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/jjygzfvnj2xd9ua/6PR%20on%20AVN%20name%20change.mp3>

NB: At 6:40 Ken McLoud from "Stop the AVN" confirms that his group registered several names just to stop us using them.

Northern Star article - <http://www.northernstar.com.au/news/president-of-the-australian-vaccination-network-gr/2129468/>

6. The Northern Star article has an interesting comment published on 2nd Dec [NB - this date is a typo and should read Jan 2nd.], from a Sandra_Harvey of Ocean Shores:

The comment included the following:

"So to reserve a name without paying for it until their hand is forced once again by Fair Trading has backfired. Dan Buzzard registered the name Australian Vaccination Sceptics Network with ASIC. If they had simply paid up like any sane person who wanted to register a name, they would have nothing to complain about"

So this person appears to have some information no one else (except OFT) had at the time.

7. We searched the ASIC database and found that indeed several names were registered from Christmas day onward. Rather than wait until your office opened again we thought we should register some names also, in case they kept going and we had no options.

8. We are concerned that confidential information about our new name has somehow flowed to a journalist (or another member of the public) without our permission, and has resulted in this situation. We deliberately kept it confidential for this reason - we knew others would pounce on it if it wasn't what they wanted us to choose. We have asked the editor of The Australian to ascertain the source of this information from the journalist. If we receive any further info about this I will let you know. Fortunately there has been little damage in this case and I'm sure the name change can proceed as per your suggestion.

The chap who registered the name (Buzzard) has written that our reservation appeared on ASIC's register briefly with "Pending" written beside it, and then it vanished. It was at that point he said he registered it. However, ASIC have informed us that this could not be the case because name reservations from OFT do not appear on their register. Do you know which of these is correct?

I understand this is a busy time of year. Please take your time responding with anything. It looks like everything's under control now. I thank you for your assistance with all this.

Greg Beattie
President
Australian Vaccination Network Inc.