

NEWS

Immunisation doubts persist, but . . .

Crusader tag dismissed

By Susie Longdill
Health Reporter

Hilary Butler is unconvinced by doctors' arguments she should have her two children immunised against polio, diphtheria or any other disease.

But this Tuakau woman denies she is anti-immunisation.

Ms Butler came to media attention when she spoke out against the Auckland meningitis immunisation campaign.

She has been on talkback radio, interviewed by many journalists and gives lectures to interested groups.

Yet while visiting Hamilton during the weekend at the invitation of homeopath and naturopath Paul Hume she flatly denied she was a crusader.

"I have nothing to crusade about," she said in an interview. "Nothing" because she has been allowed the option of not having her own two children immunised.

Nevertheless, she voiced strong views about immunisation, backing these up with many references to research reported in respected medical publications.

She said she had been devouring material on immunisation for years and spent three to four hours a day reading about the issue.

Central to her suspicions about the value of immunisation is the strong be-

lief that immunisations introduce substances into the body scientists don't even know exist.

She gave as an example the SV40 monkey virus discovered in polio vaccine seven years after it was used.

And she produced a photocopy of a report by America's National Cancer Institute which detailed known viruses found in common immunisation material.

The lists were long, and she pointed out, contained only those viruses scientists had been able to test for.

"What about the ones we don't even know exist yet?"

Ms Butler also discussed the role viruses introduced into the body via immunisations might play in the Aids epidemic.

"People are saying SV40 may be linked to the Aids virus. It and three other viruses cause exactly the same symptoms in hamsters as Aids."

She also referred to the debate about whether the smallpox vaccine had helped trigger Aids.

Part of the problem was that not only did scientists not know what viruses live animal vaccines were introducing into the body, they did not know what new viruses could be created when they combined, she said.

Some of those viruses had no effect on humans for years and years and could change and form new strains at rapid rates which made detecting their role "very difficult".

She noted with concern a statement by Chicago University medical centre's chief neurologist that in the past few years he had only seen brain tumours he considered caused by SV40 — that is the tumours were found to contain genetic material found only in the SV40 contaminated polio vaccine.

Then there was the avian viruses in the measles vaccines of the 1960s which had been found to cause leukaemia in animals.

Ms Butler also challenged the commonly-held medical view that high levels of antibodies in the bloodstream were a good thing.

"The Health Department runs round worrying because tests show antibody levels in the community are low, but if you have antibodies in your system that's bad news.

"It means you have live virus in your bloodstream. It means your system is not dealing with it."

When you come into contact with a disease, what should happen is that first you make a large number of antibodies, but once they have dealt with the disease antibody production should stop, Ms Butler said.

It was lymphatic cells, T cells, which were memory cells, that were "the key" to immunity. They would stimulate the production of more antibodies should you come into contact with the disease in the future.

"If you have got Aids antibodies it doesn't do you much good. It means you have had it."

Ms Butler also accused the Health Department of being selective in the research they acknowledged, and in the information it passed on to parents.

Her views might cause parents some misgivings.

But she said she wouldn't go as far as advising people not to have their children immunised.

"That is up to them to decide."