

# The Power of Working Together



Bruce Langoulant AM  
Chairman  
Meningitis Centre Australia

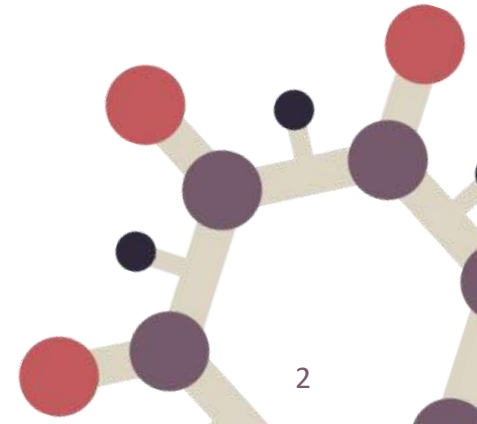
# The power of personal experience over 30 Years

- Engaging others in your cause !

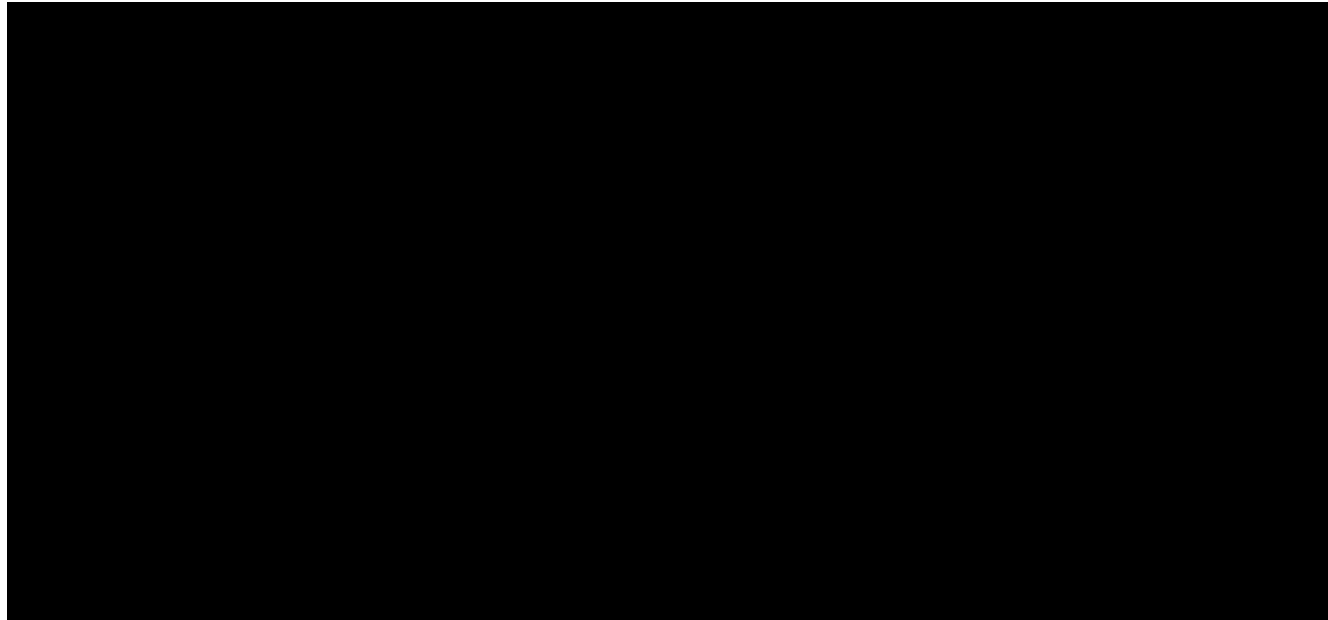


**MENINGITIS  
CENTRE  
AUSTRALIA**

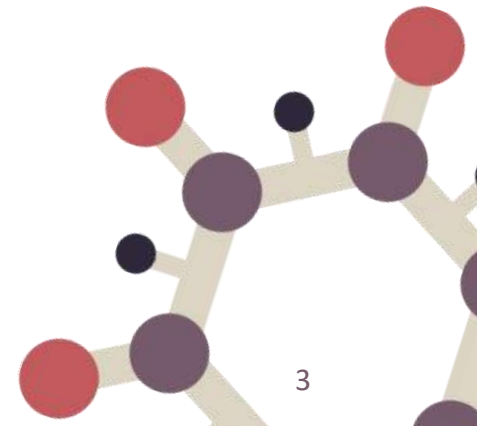
*Raising awareness.  
Every second counts.*



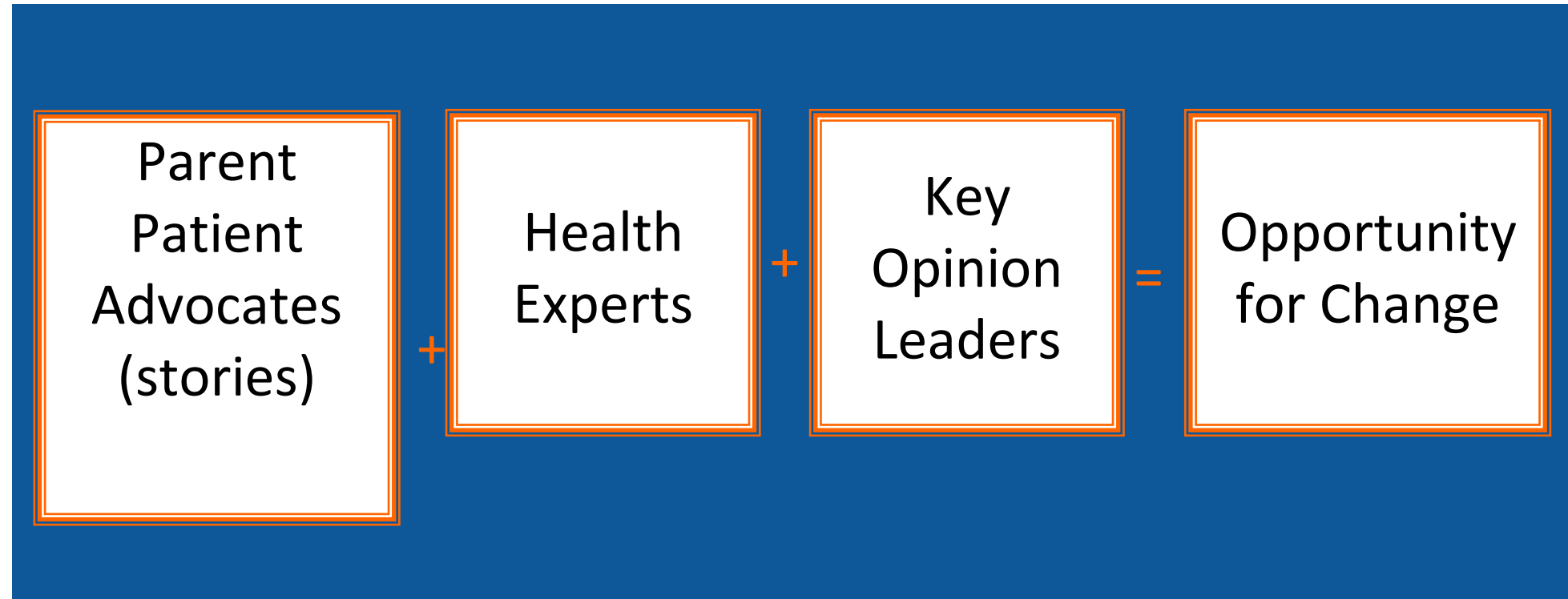
# The power of working together and adding the parent/patient voice



*Raising awareness.  
Every second counts.*



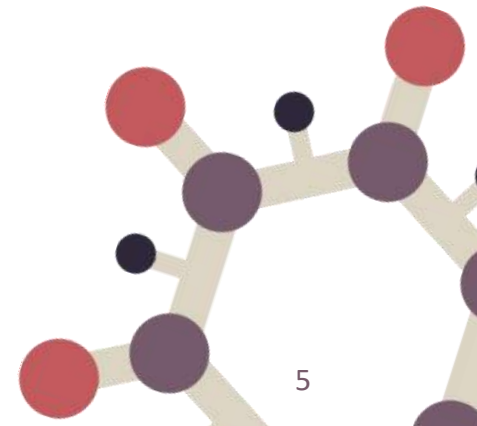
# The Change Equation



A collective effort

# How the Change Equation was Born

- Logic opens the mind
- Emotion opens the cheque book
- Elections are important
  
- Coupled together and with a healthy dose of Persistence and Relationship building from the grass roots in concert with expert input ( from many in this audience) and creating public interest.

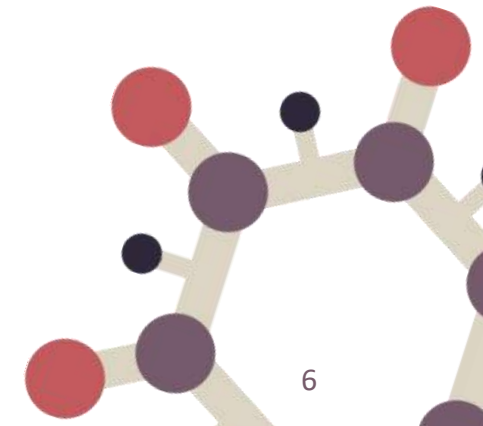


# Pneumococcal Vaccine Lobbying

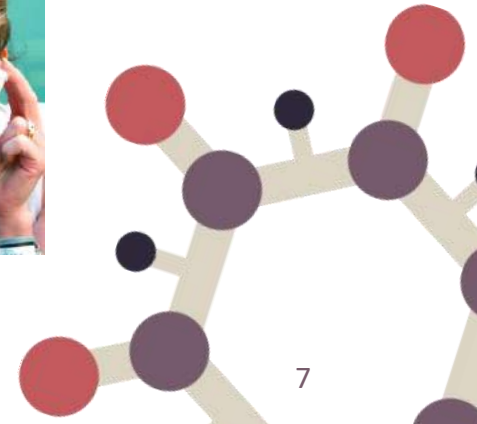
- 2001-2004
- Operation Free Pneumo Campaign
- Engaging Others in seeking
- Government Funding for the Pneumococcal Vaccine for Children in Australia



*Raising awareness.  
Every second counts.*



# Our Partners: Expert advice and parent power



# Achieving Recognition:

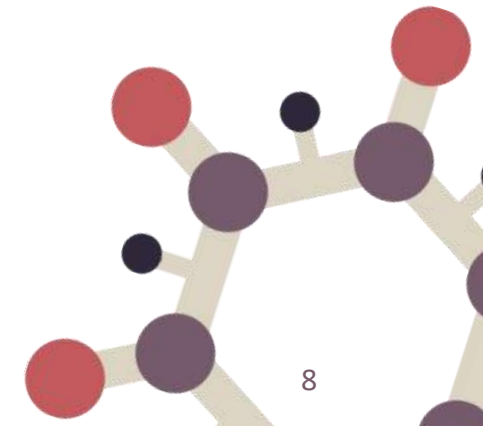
Winning government and community support



TO PROTECT OUR  
CHILDREN  
WE MUST TARGET...



An urgent message from The Meningitis Centre to State and Federal  
Members of Parliament and decision makers in Government.





# Convincing the key political decision makers



**PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA**



**Don't assume they know!**

# Obtaining media support



Parents face the pain – \$450 sting for shots



Raising awareness of a devastating disease

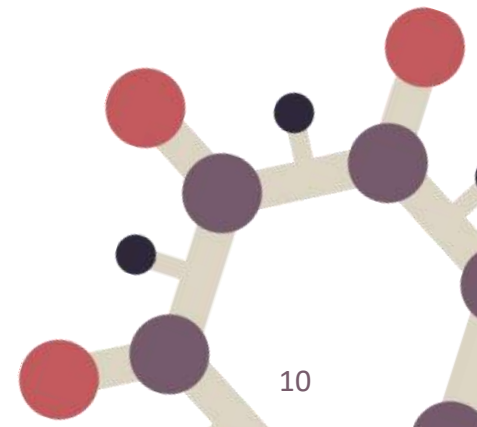
Not all children aboard vaccine schedule

Vaccine too late for Nathan

DOCTORS WOULDN'T **listen** TO ME  
two weeks before the birth of



THE MENINGITIS CENTRE

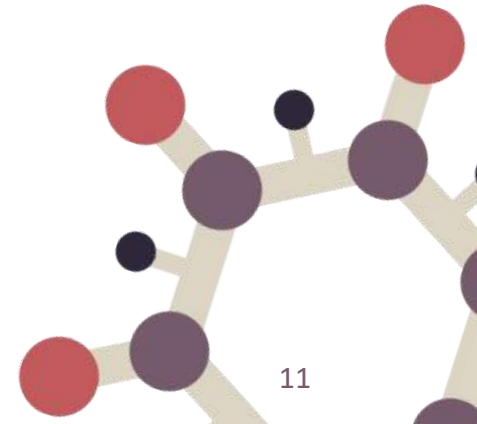


# “Free Pneumo” Campaign

## Impacts on Parliament



 THE  
MENINGITIS  
CENTRE



# The Final Hurdle: Maintaining the pressure



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Child Health Research*

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West Perth WA 6872

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Facsimile: 08 9489 7705  
Freecall: 1800 250 223

[www.meningitis.com.au](http://www.meningitis.com.au)

An Open Letter to the Prime  
Minister from a parent who  
knows what impact  
pneumococcal meningitis  
has on a life:

Friday, May 21, 2004

THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH NEWS - [www.ajn.com.au](http://www.ajn.com.au)

NEWS 3

## Vaccine might have saved Nathan's life

**ANITA SARD**

11/2 years ago Susan and Gary Rudnick lost their two-year-old son Nathan to pneumococcal meningitis and septicaemia.

At the time there was no vaccination. None there is.

But the Federal Government failed to include funding for free immunisation - costing up to \$600 per child - in last week's Budget.

Pneumococcal disease is more common than the deadly meningococcal disease. It affects 200 people a year, occurring 28 times more often than the better-known meningococcal group C disease, for which the government provided free immunisation 18 months ago.

Striking the elderly and children under 65, pneumococcal disease bacteria are found in the nose and throat of healthy children and adults and are spread by coughing and sneezing. While every child carries the bacteria, not all fall ill as a result.

Symptoms include high fever, severe headache, nausea, vomiting, stiff neck, photophobia (avoiding light due to pain), chills, coughing, chest congestion, earache and muffled hearing.

If untreated, pneumococcal disease can lead to hearing loss, mental retardation such as cerebral palsy, permanent brain damage or death.

Nathan developed pneumococcal meningitis and septicaemia in 1999.

on an IV drip to prevent dehydration and admitted him for observation. "Throughout the early hours of the morning I could see that he was getting worse. He was weak and was starting to lose consciousness."

An examination confirmed that meningitis was a likely cause and that Nathan had developed intracranial pressure. He was caused to undergo a lumbar puncture to test for meningitis.

He was given antibiotics. Just 30 minutes later, he went into toxic shock and suffered a cardiac arrest. "I couldn't believe it," Susan said. "It all happened so quickly. Before I knew it, I was standing outside the room watching the doctors pump his chest and try to revive him."

**"It all happened so quickly. Before I knew it, I was standing outside the room watching the doctors pump his chest and try to revive him."**

**SUSAN RUDNICK**  
Mother of Nathan

"We sat with him for hours. It was so hard to accept that he could be taken from us so quickly. An autopsy revealed that Nathan died from pneumococcal meningitis and septicaemia. A lumbar puncture test and

tom bloodwork because of the failure to find childhood vaccinations, including the pneumococcal vaccine.

Thornston: "A healthy child can be dead in 24 hours. It devastates families. It's hard to deny. It's extraordinary that the government is ignoring that advice. Children will die because parents (7-8) offered the vaccine. That's tragic. There are things we can't prevent; this is one we can."

"One of our roles is to make the community aware of the symptoms," Thornston said. "The longer we leave it, the more children will die."

Delivering his reply to the Budget, Opposition Leader Mark Latham said a Labor government would provide the vaccine against pneumococcal disease to every child.

According to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Health Minister Tony Abbott has backtracked from his claim that it would be "highly unlikely" that there would be supplies of the vaccine "this side of the new year."

He reportedly said the government had been negotiating with the vaccine manufacturer in hour before Latham announced that Labor had secured an agreement with companies for the supply of three new vaccinations, including for pneumococcal disease.

Inquiries: Meningitis Centre  
1800 250 223 or  
[www.meningitis.com.au](http://www.meningitis.com.au)



**Nathan Rudnick, who lost his battle with pneumococcal disease and septicaemia, five years ago at the age of two.**



# The Final Decision: Free Pneumo for all Aussie Infants

**MAY 2004**

## Call for government to match Labor's vax pledge

BY BRAD McLEAN

THE AMA has welcomed the  
Federal Government's decision

what we feel is a common-  
sense health policy initiative,"  
he told *Australian Doctor*.

UNDER the government's  
two-year \$178 million

**JUNE 2004**

## Abbott signs off on \$178m vaccine plan

# Change Equation globally

**Conclusions**

- Meningococcal disease: Adolescents can carry and transmit bacteria<sup>1</sup>
- Young people belong to a high risk group that needs protection<sup>2</sup>
- Most of Europe vaccinate against serogroups A, C, W and Y<sup>3</sup>
- In France, adolescents do not currently receive this protection<sup>4</sup>
- WHO Global Plan to Defeat Meningitis 2030 encourages all member states in Europe to implement evidence-based vaccination strategies resulting in optimal individual protection and, where possible, herd protection – meningitis can affect anyone at any age<sup>1</sup>

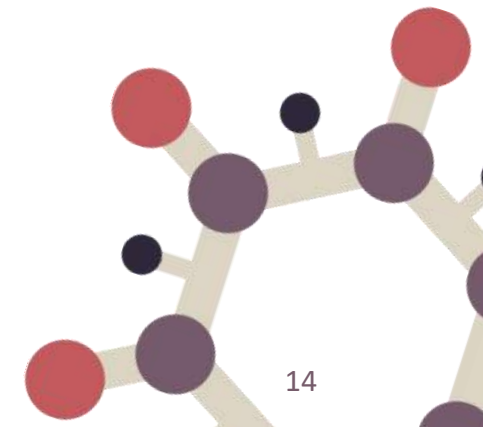
Patient Voice + Healthcare Professionals + Decision Makers = All adolescents protected

*Managing invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) in children and adolescents*  
The current status and preventative perspectives

sanofi

**E. Moya**  
Spain

**E. Moya**  
Spain



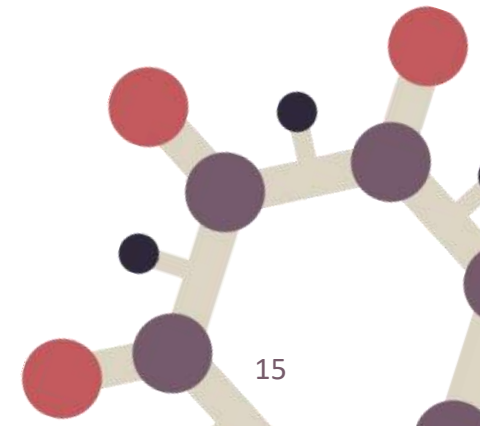
# 2016 ACWY for Teens in WA

- **Change Equation** again successful at state level. Vaccine went National subsequently – Liberal Govt.
- In 2017 ACWY for Toddlers was introduced in WA and it went National subsequently – Labor Govt ( included in our 2015/16 pre-election reach)



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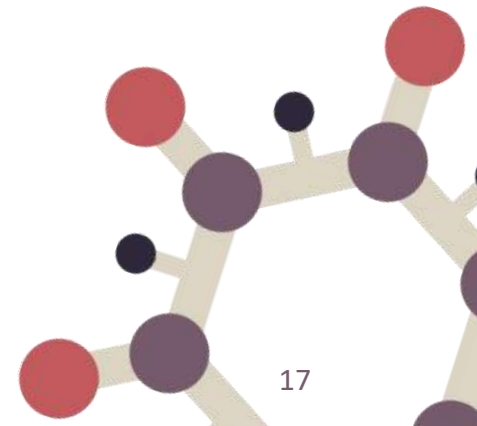
# Building our future via our Mending Hearts National Family Support Group





# Our Journey Continues

- We see and meet many who get Meningitis and Septicemia as they contact our Centre from across Australia.
- We don't see the many thousands we have helped to protect ... but we know from our lived experience why we do what we do!
- Today we also know that 300,000 kids born each year get the best blanket of protection available ..... and we have had a hand in most of it!
- **Currently working on MenB**



# THANK YOU



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