

To whom it may concern,

RE: Inquiry into allergies and anaphylaxis

I understand that the Health Minister Greg Hunt is putting forward an inquiry into allergies and anaphylaxis. As a mother of two children both anaphylaxis to nuts and our local school/ schools not allowing children to bring food containing nuts is absolutely absurd. It is absurd not because the school is being proactive about reducing incidences but because our community is affected by what I personally consider an epidemic and no one is looking into why.

I have been following very closely all the peanut allergy clinical trials around Australia since 2015 hoping I could get my children into any of them, however we either are not in the age bracket or do not live in the state where the trial is being held. I am in a position to even move states just to be part of a clinical trial. Currently in Westmead there is a clinical trial perfect for my children however the age is 10 – 16 years of age! My children are 6 and 7... we received the paperwork but when I read the age restriction I wanted to cry because I have been trying to get into one of these trial since 2015!

The MOST promising of trials being conducted today is by the MCRI Murdoch Research Institute in Melbourne by Professor Tang called Probiotic and Peanut Oral ImmunoTherapy-003 (PPOIT-003). They have developed a product that has extremely good results and are currently in the process of conducting another trial however from my understanding we have a long way off before this product is available (if at all) to the market. Please see <https://protatherapeutics.com/>

Is there any way you can expedite this therapy? I know it needs to run its course but how do we give it priority? What can you do?

I have watched my 5 year old sons eyes turn blood shot focusing on breathing at the emergency ward purely because he ate food that we had no idea was **cooked in peanut oil!!** How can he live like that? They injected him with a very large needle of adrenalin and to me it looked painful however when my son began to breath properly again and “come back to life” I asked him if he felt the needle, he said “No mummy, I was thinking hard on how to breath”. As you may know, any exposure to nuts gets worse and worse, will my son’s next exposure (god forbid) be the last? I cry as I write this. But when you read in the paper earlier in the year that deaths to allergies have risen to 42% in the last 6 years and that Australia has the HIGHEST allergy rates in the world you start to take things into your own hands because no one else will help. One state had close to 1000 cases of **anaphylaxis** since November 2018.

Something needs to be done urgently and I don’t mean adding more specialists or doctor but a cure, a stop to a food you and I ate freely as children.