

TASKFORCESUBMISSION: submission

NAME: Naomi Waizer

POSITION:

ORGANISATION:

SUBMISSION1: In my local paper today, there is the heading: "Parents blamed for obesity epidemic: Kids over-eating".

I note that the heading has arisen from quotes of a local paediatric dietician, but the article then points to your taskforce.

I welcome evidence-based reports on obesity. I reject vilification of obese people. I would ask you to take great care in how you frame your report and recommendations. I would not like to see any 'punches pulled' for the sake of political correctness, but then, I would like to see solutions framed in a way that does not unnecessarily blame people.

I would rather we looked at the issues behind why the parents are leading such an unhealthy lifestyle, before 'blaming' them for their children's condition.

On a particularly personal note, I am an obese person, who did improve her diet and lifestyle dramatically four years ago when I was pregnant with my first child. In all honesty, it did not change my size, but I have produced two healthy children. They are active and they eat well. In wording your report, I would like it to be acknowledge that just because I am obese, does not mean that I must necessarily be a bad parent, or one that is endangering my children.

Rather, a report should offer suggestions for obese people that could encourage a healthier lifestyle for them and their children. Most people in this situation need encouragement above all, and not to be ostracized.

It is becoming more commonplace for obesity to be used a derogatory term, unlike any other medical condition. I hope that your report will move towards it being seen as a condition and increase the acceptance of people who struggle with the problem, rather than furthering the disgust that is often found in the medical profession and the media, as well as general social interaction.

Understanding the the causes and effects of obesity is an important thing. I have little doubt that the indelicate treatment of the topic, the isolation many obese people feel and the outright prejudices others hold against obese people are some of the causes of the problem, although,

quite clearly not all of them. Your report in and of itself can make steps to address this part of the problem.

I hope you create an air of education, understanding and acceptance for everyone in society as a goal of your report.

Thank you.

PRIVACY: yes

SUBMIT: Submit