

COVID 19 inquiry submission

This is the first time I've ever written a response to a parliamentary inquiry and I'm doing so for several reasons, not the least of which is that this government clearly doesn't want submissions as they've provided such an unreasonable timeframe for the submission (1 Week) with zero publicity in the lead up to Christmas.

The impacts of the utterly ill advised response to society and individuals is massively far reaching, it's done major harms to both individuals like myself and health but also has a far reaching impact on social cohesion.

The divide and conquer approach taken to subjugate the public is beyond reprehensible and has simply had the effect of undermining trust in the government and its institutions. Should a future pandemic occur the default position of much of the community will be to ignore government advice as it's seeming now abundantly clear that the response was driven by focus groups (popularity), political outcomes and not good public policy.

The ongoing disregard of the public at large, as evidenced by this government's slippery tactics in only allowing the public 1 week to make submissions, will do nothing to restore public faith in the process.

It is clear from previous pandemic planning that lockdowns were not to be used in response to a pandemic due to the downstream impact. How Australian government at all levels chose to throw away all this previous planning to embark on the [REDACTED] authoritarian approach and call it a health response is dubious at best. The clear ongoing issues of social dislocation, school refusal, increased obesity, elevated ongoing death rates were all predicated as the consequences of such a policy and these have all sadly come to pass.

The government's savage suppression of scientific debate in favour of spin will in my view make it next to impossible to address future pandemics and other emergencies in a considered fashion as a huge (and in my view growing) segment of the community is now awake to the utter failings of government and governance.

It has always been clear that COVID was selective, it targeted the elderly and otherwise vulnerable. The response to punish and harm the general population without actually looking at targeted measures to protect those at risk whilst limiting the impacts to those at little to no risk was unforgivable. I say this as someone who has medical challenges and would be one of those considered at risk of COVID, so I understand the risk this would have passed to myself, and I'd of gladly taken that risk to avoid the ongoing harms to my children. My 6 Year old continues to have issues which I'm told are a direct result of impacts to his socialisation during COVID.

We as a community have lost focus on the simple fact that it is incumbent on us to protect our children. The current cost of living crisis and the massive debt that will impact our children for generations were clearly foreseeable because of the unplanned response.

The fact that this government has chosen to convene such a limited inquiry and done so with slippery tactics designed to limit public comment shows that our ruling class has learnt nothing from this sorry part of our history.

I don't know if it's possible but I'd certainly implore the government to extend or reopen the submission process so that the whole country can feel this was an inclusive process looking to learn

and improve, rather than the clear impression that a 1 week consultation phase provides of an attempt to cover up and ignore.

I implore the government to rule out and if required legislate to outlaw the response taken to the COVID pandemic. If anything good can come of this abject failure of a response it is to learn it must never be repeated, as any lives potentially saved have clearly been lost due disastrously impacts of the aftermath.