

Submission by Mr Allan Hayward, .

I am from [REDACTED] and have worked in many capacities over the years from owning my own mechanical repair business to (until my retirement early this year 2023) spending the past four years working for our local council. I would like to submit the below comments to the Inquiry panel from my perspective as a local Govt employee as well as a former small business owner:

KEY HEALTH RESPONSE MEASURES

"Where there is risk there should be choice".

Many Australians felt co-erced or pressured into taking the Covid-19 vaccines without having satisfactory information or opportunity to make an informed choice in the matter.

Covid-19 vaccines were provisionally approved for emergency use. The TGA's website describes provisional approval thus:

"Provisional approval allows us to approve...medicines for a limited period of time while more research is conducted.

For COVID-19 vaccines, the TGA has agreed to accept rolling data to enable early evaluation of data as it comes to hand using the provisional pathway. Sponsors may apply to transition a provisional registration to full registration when there is more clinical data to confirm the safety of the vaccine."

<https://www.tga.gov.au/products/covid-19/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccines-regulatory-status>

Many Australians also felt there should have been more options for alternative Covid-19 treatments since international research showed promising results with anti-virals, even before vaccines became readily available.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/36858/html/>

Vaccine mandates for travel, access to services, employment etc, whether imposed by State Governments or private employers/ organisations are probably outside the scope of this Federal Inquiry, but one thing can be suggested - the Federal Government should have heeded requests to introduce anti-discrimination legislation to prevent unfair dismissal of employees who chose not to partake of provisionally approved (for emergency use) medical treatments (eg Covid-19 vaccines).

GOVERNANCE

The Australian Federal Government has spent at least \$18 billion on Covid vaccines and treatments. That's around \$1200 transferred from the pocket of every tax-paying Australian (assuming 15 million taxpayers, based on recent statistics).

"Of the roughly 255 million vaccine doses the federal government has purchased, less than a quarter — roughly 60 million — have been administered around the country.

A further roughly 40 million doses have been donated around the Indo-Pacific region."

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler in an ABC interview is quoted mentioning

"...surplus vaccines we were contractually required to take,"

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-18/australia-covid-vaccine-surplus-options/101237430>

"Contractually required" in the above quote implies that our Federal government was somehow locked into buying excessive quantities. Has public scrutiny been allowed into the contracts that led to this colossal expenditure of the Australian budget?

The lack of transparency around vaccine contracts especially Australia's contract with Pfizer has raised concerns with a lot of people.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-20/pfizer-covid-19-vaccine-contracts/100553958>

The veil of secrecy, excessive quantity of vaccines purchased, and seeming attitude of "accountability dodging" (National Cabinet's so-called "cabinet confidentiality" protections) have led to widespread public suspicion and conjecture.

More transparency in such matters is needed.