

COVID-19 Response Inquiry

“The goal of the inquiry is to identify lessons learned to improve Australia’s preparedness for future pandemics.”

The time-frame of one week for the submissions is not adequate. So it is not possible to provide a detailed response. For this reason, I shall only take up two points.

1. Safe Treatments

A virus or pandemic is a health-related situation. When we consult our doctors, they have our medical history. They are aware of our medical conditions, be they acute or chronic, our symptoms, our sensitivities and reactions. For each condition, as patients, we have discussions with our doctors, and keeping in mind our individual histories and symptoms, we arrive at the treatment plan that would best suit us and keep us well and healthy.

Why is it that in the case of Covid, our primary care doctors were not able to follow the same method of treatment? Why did all medical professionals have to follow the guidelines of the government in treating all patients in the same way – the sick and the healthy, the young and the elderly, the strong and the frail?

There were known remedies used for decades to safely treat people such as Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine. They were shown to be effective in treating Covid symptoms in the early stages. Why were these treatments not permitted and even banned when they should have been the first step in combating the virus?

2. Masks

Research now shows that wearing of masks does not prevent the spread of the virus. In fact, it can be unhealthy. Imposing a mandatory requirement with penalties caused people to use masks in unhygienic ways so that they could comply with the rule. They used a mask that was contaminated by being pushed into pockets and bags when not needed, and then, the germ-laden masks were pulled on in public spaces.

Also, there are those with medical conditions who could not wear masks but wore them because of fear. It was the draconian manner in which the rules were imposed and the way those who were not wearing a mask were treated, at first sight, without any effort made to check their reasons for being mask-free.

In future, it is important to allow medical professionals to treat their patients based on individual case histories and discussions. To arrive at what is best for the patient's health knowing the medical condition of that patient. Mandatory one-size-fits-all rules should not be imposed on the general population.