

Submission to the COVID-19 Response Inquiry
To all the Members of the Independent Panel,

I am writing this submission to voice my deep concerns over many facets of Australia's draconian response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While I understand the importance of the Inquiry's goal to improve pandemic preparedness, there are critical areas that require thorough scrutiny yet appear to fall outside the ambit of this inquiry.

Concerns Over Specific Pandemic Measures

Mask and Vaccine Mandates: The implementation of mask and vaccine mandates had and continue to exert a significant negative impact on individual freedoms and social dynamics and employment opportunities for those who, for personal reasons, did not submit to the vaccines. These measures, often invasive, warrant a detailed review to assess their necessity, effectiveness, and proportionality.

Lockdowns and Curfews: The economic, social, personal and psychological impacts of lockdowns and curfews have been profound. An evaluation of these measures is essential to understand their long-term effects on Australian society and whether they were the most appropriate response.

Communication Strategies: It is quite clear that there was an unwarranted use of fear in public health messaging. It's important to analyse whether such communication strategies were effective or whether they contributed to unnecessary panic and distress in the community. It is difficult for the public to remain clear-headed and calm when fear-based propaganda was being pumped out at every turn- from signage everywhere to television, social media, shopping and medical clinic PA systems, schools etc. Australian children's mental health was very badly affected by the extended lockdowns (especially for those of us in Melbourne) and the sudden ceasing of so much that makes life enjoyable for them.

Concerns Over the Composition and Scope of the Inquiry

Panel Composition: The appointment of Inquiry panel members who have previously expressed support for certain pandemic measures raises questions about the objectivity and impartiality of the Inquiry. Panel members who have expressed support for such measures should recuse themselves.

Exclusion of Unilateral State and Territory Government Decisions: One of the most significant omissions in the Inquiry's scope is the exclusion of actions taken unilaterally by state and territory governments. These decisions, including state-imposed lockdowns and border controls, were pivotal to the nation's pandemic response and should be included in the Inquiry.

The Need for a Comprehensive Review

While the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry are extensive, it is crucial that the above-mentioned areas are not overlooked. A truly comprehensive review should encompass all aspects of the government's response, including those currently outside the Inquiry's scope.

This submission represents a call for a more inclusive and thorough investigation into Australia's COVID-19 response.

A disastrous failure in so many areas.

There was so much wrong in the official government handling of Covid19 in our nation, that it is hard to know where to begin. Here are some of the disgraceful policies and travesties of justice:

- *The extreme censorship of medical professionals and anyone questioning official policies ,*
- *The banning of effective alternative early treatments for the virus (such as the ivermectin protocol),*
 - *the fear campaign and state propaganda made possible by a largely unquestioning and sensationalist media*
- *the willingness to sacrifice our children's welfare and mental and social health in order to "protect" very elderly people who could have been protected without destroying life opportunities and the economy for future generations,*
- *the appalling and overt discrimination against unvaccinated citizens who for endless months were locked out of employment, council facilities, shops, cafes, cinemas, restaurants etc.*

Irrational Covid19 regulations and double standards.

I urge for freedoms and human rights to never again be trampled upon with draconian government-imposed measures -many of which were not based on scientific facts but on political and financial agendas and deals made with lobby groups, Billion dollar Pharmaceutical companies and minor parties in exchange for political favours. The following examples give a sample of the ridiculous, unjust and anti- family regulations in Victoria at certain points of the various lockdowns:

One could legally [REDACTED] with prostitutes yet could not have a family meal with one's parents- even though they desperately yearned for that social interaction. You could not take children to a playground but could shop at the liquor store. People could not have a haircut at a hair salon but could take a dog to a pet-grooming place. One could have an abortion, but not hold a baby shower for a lonely pregnant friend. Expansive, airy Churches were closed yet supermarkets were crowded with bored people who had no other social outlet. Oddly, the state's euthanasia program

kept killing Victorians all the while telling us how tragic was the death of people in their 80s and 90s- as long as they died of covid19. It seemed that deaths from all other causes (including lockdown - induced suicides) did not concern the Victorian government at all. Our young people could go to drug injecting rooms for a state sponsored heroin injection, but were banned from surfing, swimming in the ocean, playing golf, tennis or skiing with their friends. Yet these open-air sports are clearly such healthy past-times and so much better for young people than staying at home most likely spending time on their screens. Our L-Plate driver missed out on accumulating his required 120 hours of driving practice due to nonsensical rules which forbade taking our L-platers for a driving lesson during lockdowns when streets were quiet and no Covid 19 danger was posed to anyone, as there were only 2 related people in the car. This put the whole 2020-2021 cohort at a disadvantage and held them back for 2 years from both learning to drive and all the opportunities that this affords. The lack of logic in so many of the rules frustrated citizens and unnecessarily and disproportionately harmed our school-age and young people, including my own children in this age group. They have missed life milestones for no good reason as virtually everyone contracted covid regardless of whether they were vaccinated or not. Infections were not severe in the vast majority of healthy people so we should have let people determine what risks were acceptable to them. A targeted policy where we isolated those who were sick, vulnerable, obese or elderly or those who were concerned about contracting the virus or who were in nursing homes and therefore at higher risk of hospitalisation would have caused less damage to our younger generations and to the economy. If there ever is another similar pandemic, people should be free to determine the level of risk they are prepared to take. It is hypocritical to allow a sick person to legally kill themselves via Victoria's euthanasia program but for a healthy person to not be permitted to take a tiny risk in catching what for most people (vaccinated or unvaccinated) is just a flu-like cold.

The fact that the vaccines neither prevented those jabbed from being infected by Covid 19 nor stopped its transmission to others, should be investigated, given that these were the supposed justifications for vaccine mandates -which are still being imposed on healthcare and aged care and disability workers in some states. These should be urgently repealed.

Conclusion

I urge the Inquiry to consider these points to ensure transparency, accountability, and the safeguarding of Australian values, human rights and freedoms and to take a critical look at the lack of scientific reasoning in so many covid19 policies and rules forced upon us during those awful years and to repeal all covid19 vaccine mandates to allow the thousands of unvaccinated nurses and health professionals to re-enter the workforce and reduce the shortage of such staff in Victoria .