

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

I am writing this submission to voice concerns over Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While I recognise the importance of the Inquiry's goal to improve pandemic preparedness, there are critical areas that require thorough scrutiny.

### Was the legal definition of a Pandemic met BEFORE invoking the Emergency Act and implementing Pandemic Measures

It is important that the inquiry scrutinise the data that lead to the justification for the invocation of the Emergency Act, that then led to the decisions made by government to limit the freedoms and liberties of the Australian people.

Were emergency measures put in place based on assumption of a pandemic regarding COVID-19 or on true and measured fact?

We the people want to know that the measures taken by the government regarding COVID-19 were legally justified and how future pandemics will be legally defined and proven to the public BEFORE any further measures are taken to restrict and impose directions on the population.

### Concerns Over Specific Pandemic Measures

**Mask and Vaccine Mandates:** The implementation of mask and vaccine mandates had significant impacts on individual freedoms and social dynamics. These measures, often invasive, warrant a detailed review to assess their necessity, effectiveness, and proportionality.

**Lockdowns and Curfews:** The economic, social, 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 among the public.

### 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.

### Conclusion

This submission represents a collective call for a more inclusive and thorough investigation into Australia's COVID-19 response. It urges a true and measured look at the data that invoked the Emergency Act and whether COVID-19 met the legal criteria to be defined as a pandemic. It also urges for freedom and liberty to not ever be cast aside with fearmongering as it was by Australian governments during the pandemic. We urge the Inquiry to consider these points to ensure transparency, accountability, and the safeguarding of Australian values and liberties.

