

Dear committee members,

Given how I have been impacted by the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, I am grateful for the opportunity to make this submission.

I lost my job as a result the vaccination mandates. I had a medical exemption but my employer refused to accept it, based on their own medical person disagreeing (without ever consulting with me) with my doctor's professional opinion.

The fact that this was allowed to happen I find appalling. The Commonwealth should have upheld the privacy provisions of the law. It should never be anyone's right to force me to disclose either medical information or which treatments I have or haven't received.

As a result of this termination, I have now been unemployed for more than a year and the financial hardship we are experiencing is not insignificant.

A lot of the decision making of government was based on modelling. There is a huge issue with this. I used to work in IT. I am familiar with models. You can make a model produce just about any kind of data. It isn't possible to back-test these pandemic models because we haven't had a pandemic in a century. So, the models created were full of assumptions. And these models were not made available for public scrutiny. I remember vividly the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald, probably in early 2020: 150,000 people may die!

The model that this was based upon came from England and a long time later was completely rubbished by experts. But, people remember the headline. The media did a great job doing what they do best: create fear and anxiety. This may well have influenced the government's decision making. On the one hand it may have influenced decision makers, if they took the fear mongering on board, to make ill-informed or over the top decisions, on the other hand, you can force all sorts of draconian measures on a scared populace without much push-back.

In my view, the government should have taken a much more moderate approach. We have a problem in this country with the division of responsibilities. The way I understand the basics of the way Australia operates, the states are responsible for Health. In a situation like a pandemic, I think that is not manageable. The responsibility and accountability should be with a single level of government. It's non-sensical that people in one state are made to do one thing and people in another state something else.

I must compliment the government on its policies to support small and medium businesses. The money that was given (rather than loaned, like in other countries) has really helped the SMB sector largely survive. The only comment I would like to make here is that for large companies just gifting them the money was a step too far. Sure, it was important for i.e. QANTAS to survive but they should have been made to repay this tax payer money once they returned a very sizeable profit.

Another issue I would like to raise is that it was most peculiar that the government restricted doctors in how they could treat this disease. I'm not one to immediately jump on

the conspiracy theory bandwagon but one does start to wonder when doctors are forbidden to prescribe medications that they, in their professional experience, know have always worked for Corona viruses (after all, SARS COV2 was not the first Corona virus we encountered). There was an almost religious fascination with vaccination, it was held as the only way out.

We can now see that that may not have been such a wholesome thought but even back in the day a little more level-headed approach and sound understanding of medicine and how immune systems actually work should have led to a far less dictatorial approach to the vaccination issue.

I, for one, find it almost impossible to believe that well-educated medical experts would have ever truly believed that a brand-new vaccine, made with a technology that had never been used in vaccines before (mRNA) could be sold to the public as 'safe and effective' when there was not even medium term safety data available. To be told with a straight face, day after day, news bulletin after press conference, that if you take this you won't get sick and you won't be able to transmit it was such a stretch of the imagination that now, looking back, I can't even believe it happened. The reality was starkly different. Almost everyone got Covid at some time or another and quite happily passed it on.

I thank you for your time and hope that my submission in some small way may help your enquiry.

Kind regards,

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