

Submission to the COVID-19 Response Inquiry

The response of Australia's federal and state governments to the China Virus was a case of shocking mismanagement and malfeasance. I know, I know, only the Commonwealth Government's response is in the terms of reference. But this is clearly ridiculous. The disastrous COVID response calls for a Royal Commission covering all levels of government and bureaucracy, as well as legal and medical institutions, the media, and big business. State government decisions had, if anything, a greater impact than those of the Commonwealth. We've had Royal Commissions for National Natural Disaster Arrangements, Aged Care Quality and Safety, and the Robodebt Scheme. Measured by their impact on the country as a whole, these are to the COVID response [REDACTED]. Of course the reason the terms of reference are restricted to the Commonwealth is that the present Labor federal government doesn't want to implicate its state Labor mates, and wants to pin the blame for any failures on the (admittedly appalling) Morrison government. And the reason we aren't yet having a Royal Commission is that most of those who are in power are on the record supporting the disastrous policies, or calling for even crazier ones, and are protecting themselves.

During COVID, the authorities showed a complete disregard for the basic rights and freedoms of Australians. I'm not talking about silly latter-day indulgences like the right to health care or education. I'm talking about the most ancient and fundamental freedoms known to the English-speaking peoples: freedom of movement, freedom of association, freedom of speech, and freedom from cruel and unusual punishments, like being fired for refusing a vaccine, let alone one that didn't, contrary to incessant government propaganda, stop infection or transmission. The external borders were slammed shut, stranding many Australians outside, and inside, the country. State borders were closed in violation of section 92 of the Constitution. Citizens were ordered to stay at home, and/or not venture outside of certain zones, on pain of punishing fines, intermittently for months and even years on end. They were ordered to wear utterly pointless self-effacing masks among many other indignities, physically isolated from one another, and arrested, beaten, and confined for exercising their right to protest. A police state was established in Australia, complete with masked thugs dressed in black using truncheons and even rubber bullets against citizens.

Freedom of speech was curtailed in two major ways which worsened the pandemic response. Firstly, medical staff were explicitly threatened by AHPRA and ATAGI with career-destroying disqualifications if they spoke the truth by contradicting the official advice on such things as the COVID vaccines, ivermectin, and hydroxychloroquine. Secondly, the Commonwealth colluded with Big Tech companies in the US to suppress Australian opinion expressed online, including that of a federal member of parliament.

Give us a Royal Commission!