

## Commonwealth Government COVID-19 Response Inquiry

Submission by Avril Sellars 14/12/2023

During the COVID-19 situation, when vaccines became available, we were assured by then Prime Minister Morrison that they would be entirely voluntary. That soon went out of the window. Many people I know were forced to take the vaccine or lose their jobs. Some ascribe long-lasting adverse physical and mental effects to the vaccine. It has completely changed the lives of good people who are forever lost as productive members of society.

Then, particularly in Victoria, measures became increasingly draconian, with restrictions on movement, recreation, church attendance, etc. The situation reached ridiculous lengths when obviously healthy people were required to wear masks even during outdoor sports!

In my case, it went further, with my yacht club requiring everyone participating in sailing or using the club to show proof of vaccination. I refused and was brought up before a disciplinary committee. I drew their attention to the Privacy Act 1988, which does not require people to disclose their personal or health information. In spite of this, the disciplinary committee banned me from the club for 6 months, with the proviso that I would only be allowed back if I showed proof of vaccination. They will be waiting a long time! I was an exemplary member for 15 years but I have not renewed my membership and have since gone to another club.

During and after the COVID-19 years, it has become increasingly obvious that the vaccines have failed to prevent people catching and passing on the disease. So the argument that one must get vaccinated to protect others has completely failed. Then the story changed: get vaccinated to prevent you becoming more seriously ill. I have seen evidence that this argument has also failed. People I know who have been vaccinated and then caught COVID have ended up with what is referred to as "long COVID". Not a pleasant situation.

As to medications, I find it strange that perfectly safe, cheap and effective off label medications were banned in Australia. Now expensive anti-viral medications are promoted and must be a substantial drain on our health services. Is no one in the health professions willing to look at more economical alternatives?