

## **1. Introduce yourself, and explain a little about why your voice is important**

Examples:

I am an education worker who worked in a public school as a teacher.

I have three adult children, a vulnerable [REDACTED] husband and an elderly mother in the retirement village near us.. She lives alone and relies on us.

I am also a small business owner.

## **2. What are your suggestions and feedback about the role of the Federal Government, National Cabinet, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and/or other advisory bodies?**

### **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

My feedback regarding the role played by the Federal government was that initially in the pandemic they were a little slow ( understandably ) but worked to keep the population safe while waiting for vaccines. At that stage we were world class with a response ( akin to our AIDS response) that if emulated globally could have ended the pandemic.

Currently however, vaccines are late, very few are eligible, communication is appalling and the “ everyone protect themselves “ is inequitable as not all have equal resources.

It is ludicrous to use a let it rip/ vaccine only policy when they are not available to ALL who want them. It is personal responsibility while being denied access to resources.

The same is true for anti virals which are only available for some and ironically not those in health care, education etc where risk is substantial.

It is as if the government has given up trying or not bothering and failing to plan, not using the benefit of our geographical location. As JN ( whatever no. now) causes difficulties overseas, our vulnerable wait for vaccinations that will not be immediately effective. Some kids are still not entitled to any vaccine.

They are also failing to consider the consequences of long covid and impact on work forces and services, despite an inquiry led by Dr Ryan. Conclusions from this seem to have been buried, leaving many suffering and devastated regarding their future prospects of living a functional life. This is cruel and heartless behaviour on the part of the government.

### **NATIONAL CABINET AND COMMUNICATION**

National Cabinet and the concept of this is a disgrace, in as much as it is used for the pandemic, as it offers no transparency, and is secretive and undermines trust. Hopefully we soon have an enquiry like the UK that looks honestly and openly at decisions made, to better prepare for future events.

Instead of the government communicating a uniform message to Australians, it has been fragmented and in some instances ridiculous. You have over 100 staff sick with Covid in Townsville hospital and their medical officer saying masks are “not proportionate” while the more sensible Melbourne officer is recommending masks in light of the increase in wastewater of the Jn strand in Victoria and the knowledge that it is causing increases in illness in young people, and increases in their hospitalisations/ intubations overseas.

ATAGI

ATAGI too is slow and vaccines for under 5 not available despite being available in other countries.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

Advice given to government from Australia’s Chief Medical Officer was also limited with no feeling of the country working together. Currently he minimises a disease that can cause serious health issues and denies the population access to information, such as the airborne nature of the virus and the research that emerges daily about long term health consequences of repeated infection.

SUGGESTIONS GOING FORWARD

Government needs to be honest, offer a clear path of recommendations and mandate clean air in business and indoor settings.

They need to work for the benefit of the population with recognition that business is one part of this. They need to equally consider children who should not be used as transmission vectors at the cost of their health, the work force who need health to function.

They need to adopt strategy that helps in all difficult situations, namely plan for the worst and hope for the best. At the minute has been ongoing hope that it will disappear if we do nothing.

**3. What are your suggestions and feedback about key health response measures, e.g. COVID-19 vaccinations and treatments, key medical supplies such as personal protective equipment, quarantine facilities, and public health messaging?**

Examples:

In my personal experience, COVID-19 vaccinations and/or treatments have been slow, inequitable and limited in distribution.

Regarding PPE, in the future the federal government needs to acknowledge the most effective PPE and make it available to health workers.

The Federal Health department could improve Public Health messaging by being honest, not supporting vested interests,

**4. What are your suggestions and feedback about international policies with regard to securing vaccine supply deals?**

Examples:

The Morrison government's approach to vaccine procurement impacted me by being slow but was accessible when arrived.

The Albanese government's vaccine procurement policy has been appalling and hypocritical and limited in availability. Messaging is very confusing on eligibility

## **5. What are your suggestions and feedback about financial support for individuals?**

Examples:

In my personal experience, the government's policies regarding financial support during the pandemic have been worsened the pandemic as ill people go to work as they need wages.

The impact of the removal of isolation income support was a ludicrous decision, not in the best interests of the population.

## **9. What are your suggestions and feedback for "improving Australia's preparedness for (current and) future pandemics"?**

We must have Clean Air in schools, and every precaution. Children have been used as sacrifices for the economy and this is a disgraceful indictment of our values.

Personally I left teaching in a public school as I could not bare to watch the damage those choices would cause.

Have still had to be part of the damage that will soon have impacted every family as we continue the let it rip policy with no public health messaging. We have had an [REDACTED] year old family member in ICU with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] courtesy of a lazy government that could not clean air through hepa, enforce open windows and maintain messaging so teachers realised the danger of Covid and ways to mitigate.

Masks in healthcare are a must and somehow the gov has let this become political. Everyone in healthcare should mask as vulnerable people are there, including now workers whose health has been compromised.

Access to antivirals should be a right of all members of the population if the government chooses to do nothing and timely updated vaccines too should be available to all when wanted with scientific recommendation (not ATAGI), they have no credibility left.

Also deliberate misinformation should be a criminal offence. Gaslighting the population has led to death, disability

I have read papers and posts by Professor Brendan Crabb, the John Snow Project, OzSAGE and kept screenshots not links. I have read information by US CDC who are only now acknowledging the danger of Covid and long term impact on the economy but again no links.

Examples:

Australia would be better prepared for current and future pandemics if the government had scientists rather than business members as advisors for National Cabinet.

There is a gap in Australia's response in every sense and there is an opportunity to rectify that with determination, focus, preparation and NOT deciding the population are too frail for the truth and transparency.

Things that worked well for my family were paid pandemic leave to stop the spread.