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Commonwealth Government COVID-19 Response Inquiry

Dear Sir/Madam,

My background includes health sciences, a PhD in Chemistry (among other qualifications) and a major in law.

The issues:

Under S51 of the constitution, the Commonwealth has powers to make laws for

(ix) Trade and commerce with other countries and states

(ix) Quarantine

There are many other areas within the federal domain where the Commonwealth could have asserted its powers.

The response:

The Commonwealth has abrogated its responsibilities under the Constitution during the Covid response. Instead of leading the states it followed. Instead of ensuring a unified response we got a piecemeal state-by-state response.

Recommendation:

The Commonwealth should have taken the lead on quarantine issues... rather than letting the states decide what to do. It has resulted in a piecemeal approach to COVID-19 and many unjust, excessive and poorly considered interventions. The interventions were often political rather than scientifically warranted e.g. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews made decisions about lockdowns without his chief medical officer being present and despite advice that lockdowns were not necessary.

The issue:

The states' responses also interfered with trade and commerce with other states and countries. I and many others lost work due to the lockdowns.

The response:

Many Australians wrote to the Commonwealth asking for assistance in tempering these intemperate state responses without any visible effect.

Example:

I was doing work at Lang Lang (country area) working with only 1-3 other people. Despite this, I was prevented from going on site because the landlord (property owner) had banned unvaccinated individuals from entering the site. The provision of an exemption certificate was not sufficient to allow me on-site N.B. My employers did not require vaccination.

I have a [REDACTED] and any myocarditis or pericarditis (or other side effect) could kill me. I did not want to risk vaccination with an mRNA vaccine (I am otherwise fully vaccinated). My doctor(s) agreed that such vaccination was undesirable but were unwilling to provide an exemption because they were worried they would be deregistered: AHPRA listed a very narrow range of reasons for issuing vaccination exemptions. It was only after I got COVID-19 (a mild illness) that I finally got a vaccination exemption N.B. My immune system works just fine so my risk is low. My age also puts me at lower risk.

Recommendation:

Doctors should be allowed to use their best judgement whether a patient should be given an exemption. Doctors should not be threatened with deregistration, investigation and loss of income for engaging in debate on COVID-19 issues or providing exemptions e.g. [REDACTED] who is still unable to work.

Recommendation:

Non-mRNA Covid vaccines such as the Australian-produced "Vaxine" should have been supported and offered as an alternative.

Outcomes:

The inability to work resulted in a significant loss of income and the project we were working on was significantly delayed.

Of the other people on site one finally got vaccinated and later boosted under duress.

The other one was happily vaccinated till he got his booster shot and got sick. After that, he decided not to take any more boosters. He is still unwell.

My other co-worker has a demonstrated allergic response to vaccinations and was unable to get an exemption... even though a vaccination could kill him or at least make him very sick. As a result, he was not allowed on site.

People who had reasonable reasons for declining vaccination were discriminated against by bureaucracies that didn't understand the issues they were dealing with. Decisions to vaccinate were made under duress i.e. Coercion. Governments were playing with people's lives.

Recommendation:

Governments and bureaucrats need to be held responsible for their decisions. Currently, poor decision-making at the government level has no (or few) consequences. People need to be held accountable for their actions. Governments should not be making binding health decisions for people as their decision-making is too erratic to trust.

Conclusions:

Australians are disappointed that the Commonwealth government did not temper the states' responses to COVID-19 by legislating to bring some coherence at the Federal level. This resulted in poorly considered interventions, a massive blowout in costs and poor outcomes.

Yours sincerely

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