

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to this Inquiry. The main purpose of this submission is to highlight relevant research publications and reports generated during the early years of the COVID-19 pandemic to support public health policy making and responses, and to outline some of my roles and responsibilities during this time.

I am an Australian general practitioner, primary care and public health researcher, and clinician leader. Since July 2023, I have held a joint academic appointment as the inaugural Director of the Centre for Future Health Systems at the University of New South Wales, and as Professor of Global Primary Care and Future Health Systems at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences at the University of Oxford. During the first three and a half years of the COVID-19 pandemic, I served as Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Principal Medical Advisor with the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, and as the Foundation Professor of Primary Care Reform at the Australian National University.

During the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia, I worked with the Australian government, the Minister for Health and Aged Care, and colleagues and stakeholders from across the nation on many key initiatives including the rapid implementation of whole of population telehealth measures. I was a member of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) providing health advice to the Prime Minister and National Cabinet throughout the pandemic. I chaired a cross-Department of Health taskforce to ensure rapid deployment of oral COVID-19 treatments. I chaired the Commonwealth's Aged Care Advisory Group, providing advice on the prevention and response and recovery of outbreaks of COVID-19 in residential aged care facilities. I worked with the Presiding Officers of the Parliament of Australia, the Chief Justices of the High Court of Australia and the Federal Court, and the staff of the Australian Electoral Commission, to support the COVIDSafe approaches of these core national institutions. I was a member of the Industrial Relations Taskforce of the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission, established to support the continuation of essential industries throughout the pandemic. I was appointed as a health advisor to the Office of the Attorney General to support the resolution of industrial disputes affecting essential industries during the pandemic. I was appointed by the Office of the Foreign Minister to support the pandemic responses of other nations, including Papua New Guinea, Tonga, and Vanuatu. I participated in meetings of the COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments for Australia – Science and Industry Technical Advisory Group which provided advice to the Australian Government on the purchasing and manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. I represented the Department of Health and Aged Care as a member of the Australian COVID-19 Palliative Care Working Group providing advice to ensure the safe continuation of palliative care services throughout the pandemic. I supported the establishment of stakeholder advisory committees to support input into pandemic responses from members of culturally and linguistically diverse communities and from people with disability. I hosted webinars each week for health care workers, reaching an audience of up to 15,000 live viewers at each event, issued weekly update newsletters by email and social media to the nation's healthcare workers, and participated in numerous other webinar events supporting healthcare, aged care and disability care workers across Australia and around the world. I chaired a regular forum to provide updates for media commentators from key representatives of the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care and to allow the exchange of knowledge and experience. I appeared regularly on mainstream media outlets providing updates and explaining elements of the national pandemic response to the people of Australia. I served eight periods as acting Chief Medical Officer of Australia and Director of Human Biosecurity.

I also co-chaired the National COVID-19 Health and Research Advisory Committee (NCHRAC), with [REDACTED] which was established in March 2020 to provide advice to the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer on aspects of Australia's health response to the COVID-19 pandemic and which conducted reviews of international research and other sources of evidence to

support national policy decisions. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) provided secretariat and project support for the Committee through its operation from April 2020 until 31 March 2022.

NCHRC membership included representation from all states and territories and from rural and remote Australia. Members were selected to provide a range of expertise and perspectives, and included:

- respected community leaders and parliamentarians
- clinicians and researchers from a variety of disciplines, including infectious disease, public health, emergency response, hospital care, primary care, social science and bioethics
- persons that represented the voices of older people, people with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, younger people, people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people with mental health concerns.

Details of the NCHRC, its membership and copies of its 40 published reports are available at: <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/leadership-and-governance/committees/national-covid-19-health-and-research-advisory-committee>

I also led a team of action researchers from The Australian National University, based with me in the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, documenting the development and implementation of the nation's primary health care response to COVID-19, and carrying out rapid research reviews to inform national policy developments. Some of this work was published in the medical literature, to share our findings with other health care providers and policy makers around the world and to ensure there was an enduring record of aspects of Australia's response to support future pandemic planning and responses. I have added below details of some of the publications from this team which are relevant to the terms of reference of this Inquiry. Please let me know if I can further assist the work of the Inquiry. I would be happy to appear in person if requested.

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2. Kidd, M. Australia's primary care COVID-19 response. *Australian Journal of General Practice* 2020; 49(Suppl 2): doi: 10.31128/AJGP-COVID-02 <https://www1.racgp.org.au/getattachment/8f404e46-5525-46f7-928d-82214aac3d52/Australias-primary-care-COVID19-response.aspx>
3. Kidd, M. Five principles for pandemic preparedness: lessons from the Australian COVID-19 primary care response. *British Journal of General Practice* 2020; 70(696): 316-317. <https://bjgp.org/content/bjgp/70/696/316.full.pdf>
4. Desborough J, Hall Dykgraaf S, Rankin D, Kidd M. The importance of consistent advice during a pandemic. *Australian Journal of General Practice* 2020; 49(6): 369-372. doi: 10.31128/AJGP-04-20-5374 <https://www1.racgp.org.au/ajgp/2020/june/importance-of-consistent-advice-during-a-pandemic>
5. Kelaher C, Gilbert L, Chang A, Kidd M. How do we find a 'New Normal' for Industry and Business After COVID-19 Shut Downs?" *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* 2020; 62(9):e531-e534. doi: 10.1097/JOM.0000000000001948. https://journals.lww.com/joem/Fulltext/2020/09000/How_do_we_Find_a_New_Normal_for_Industry_and.24.aspx
6. Desborough J, Blashki G, Hall S, Vine R, Morgan C, Roddam M, Kidd M. Community activation, policy and COVID-19. *World Mental Health Day 2020. Mental health for all: greater investment - greater access*. World Federation for Mental Health, 2020. https://wfmh.global/wp-content/uploads/WMHD2020_v16_resized.pdf
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8. Desborough J, Hall Dykgraaf S, Davis S, Kidd M. Reflecting on Australia's five principles for pandemic response in primary care. *Australian Journal of General Practice* 2020; 50 (Suppl 46). DOI: 10.31128/AJGP-COVID-46. <https://www1.racgp.org.au/ajgp/coronavirus/reflecting-on-australias-five-principles-for-pande>
9. Desborough J, Hall Dykgraaf S, Phillips C, Wright M, Maddox R, Davis S, Kidd M. Lessons for the global primary care response to COVID-19: a rapid review of evidence from past epidemics. *Family Practice* 2021; 1-15. DOI:10.1093/fampra/cmaa142. <https://academic.oup.com/fampra/advance-article/doi/10.1093/fampra/cmaa142/6136179>
10. Hall Dykgraaf S, Desborough J, de Toca L, Davis S, Roberts L, Munindrasa A, McMillan A, Kelly P, Kidd M. "A decade's worth of work in a matter of days": The journey to telehealth for the whole population in Australia. *International Journal*

of Medical Informatics 2021; 151:104483.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S138650562100109X?dgcid=author>

11. Munindradasa A, Blashki G, Hall Dykgraaf S, Desborough J, Kidd M. GP management of mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Australian Journal of General Practice* 2021; 50:472-477. DOI: 10.31128/AJGP-11-20-5745. <https://www1.racgp.org.au/ajgp/2021/july/management-of-mental-health-during-the-covid-19-pa>
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19. Dut G, Juol-Thor BP, Abiem D, et al. Community-led vaccination programs: getting the fundamentals right. *Australian Journal of General Practice* 2022; 51:Suppl 4. DOI: 10.31128/AJGP-COVID-51-4. <https://www1.racgp.org.au/getattachment/5ce53ae9-ee35-425d-bf70-8a3e81793393/Community-led-vaccination-programs.aspx>
20. Parkinson A, Matenge S, Desborough J, Hall Dykgraaf S, Ball L, Wright M, Sturgiss E, Kidd M. The impact of COVID-19 on chronic disease management in primary care: lessons for Australia from the international experience. *Medical Journal of Australia* 2022; DOI: 10.5694/mja2.51497. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.5694/mja2.51497>
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30. Sturgiss L, Simpson N, Ball L, Hal Dykgraaf S, Kelly P, Kidd M. Community-based access to oral antiviral treatments for COVID-19 in Australia. *Australian Journal of General Practice* 2023; 52(6): 409-412. [RACGP - Community based access to oral antiviral treatments for COVID 19 in Australia](https://www1.racgp.org.au/ajgp/2023/june/racgp-community-based-access-to-oral-antiviral-treatments-for-covid-19-in-australia)