

Dear Panel,

As a casual employee at [REDACTED], I was forced to have two Covid vaccines in order to continue working my position, a choice I resented being presented with but needed to work (when I wasn't being forced home due to lockdown mandates). Within two hours of my 2nd Pfizer vaccine I was a complete mess. I had rapid onset of new symptoms. I was delirious, laying on the couch with shooting, burning pain radiating in my limbs, getting worse to the extremities, and exhausted. Like many people, I had heard of multiple people experiencing side effects but were constantly assured by the Government and media it was normal and it meant the vaccines were working, and the vaccines were safe.

I was so exhausted and delirious and soon fell into a sleep. I woke up suddenly around 5am in extreme pain, my hands and feet felt like they were on fire and I felt nauseous like I was going to vomit. I had sensory overload, everything was confusing, it felt like my brain didn't work properly. Once again I assumed this would pass, and took painkillers, but they barely scratched the surface. My heart would beat inconsistently, sometimes skipping beats, and I spent a few days in bed waiting for it all to pass. My hands had little dexterity, it hurt even more to use them, and I was reduced to tears every day. I struggled with executive function, being confused and unable to process information well.

After multiple days of it not getting any better I made an appointment with my doctor. He assessed and observed me, prescribed me some painkillers and described my symptoms as peripheral neuropathy and inappropriate sinus tachycardia, ordered some tests and to watch and wait.

I cried everyday for the first month, it was agonising pain, and I hardly slept. I coated my limbs in nurofen gel and lidocaine gel and took Tramadol and ibuprofen regularly. The few hours I did work, I struggled to get by and would spend lunches and breaks laying down in a spare room and most of my free time at home in bed. Playing music is my passion, and I was unable to even fret a note on my guitar or bass for the first five months. It put a lot of pressure on me and those close to me.

Around the five month mark things began improving slightly but it has still been a disturbing journey. It is two years since and I have not made a recovery. I had to wait many months to get in for further tests including a Stress Echo-Cardiogram which showed I now have premature ventricular contractions of the heart, and a Nerve Conduction Study with a specialist. I still have lots of executive function issues which makes me feel stupid and causes me to make mistakes at work and at home.

I still experience lots of pain in my extremities, particularly the hands, and I have concerns with my heart upon exertion. It's torturous. I have no idea how long this will continue for, or what permanent damage has been done, or what complications will arise from my body being weakened by this damage. I am out of pocket a lot of money, when I am already on a low-income.

When I looked into the compensation scheme for Covid vaccine-injured, I was unable to apply due to the ridiculously strict limited terms of application, shunted out by definitions.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I was misled into believing the Covid vaccines were safe by the Government and it has been a big fat lie. Had I known this traumatic event was going to happen to me I never would have had any Covid vaccines. I have lost count of the amount of people I

know who have suffered injuries from them as well, including allied health professionals and hospital staff.

I know a number of medical professionals who have told me that AHPRA warned doctors that if they spoke up anything that could be construed as critical of the Government's Covid policy or vaccines that they would have their licences revoked.

I have also suffered mentally from the Government due to the repeated messaging and ideology that was promoted that anyone who opposed Covid vaccine mandates or claimed injury, was dismissed and ridiculed as an "extremist", "anti-vaxxer" and "anti-science". It whipped up a furore over social media that targeted anyone with valid experiences and promoted hate and extremism against people like me. It's insulting and discriminatory.

The vaccines were clearly rushed, clearly not properly tested and forced upon a population through coercion and manipulation, who were forced to choose between jabs over their jobs, without informed consent of the risks, and forced to sign a waiver saying that the pharmaceutical companies that pushed them through were legally indemnified. I also endured the stress of waiting over many months to find out if I would have to have a booster to continue my job when the Government had restricted medical exemptions from further Covid vaccines, even after serious injuries had occurred!

Abuse of human rights has occurred repeatedly due to the Federal Government's response to Covid, and there are many Department's who have failed in their role to protect citizens. Criminal negligence has occurred. Pharmaceutical companies should not be legally indemnified for dangerous products and the TGA should have withdrawn the vaccines.

Even this inquiry being open for only a week appears like it was designed to limit the scope and calibre of critical responses. I only found out about this late yesterday, giving me just a day to prepare a submission.

I hope that this inquiry creates some meaningful change, ensures some justice for victims, and prevents horrors like this traumatic experience from ever occurring again for anybody now that the Government has set precedents for how extreme it can behave in any event it decides is an emergency from now on in.