

Submission and evidence to the COVID-19 Response Inquiry

Introduction

I wish to address the Inquiry as an individual Australian citizen with concerns regarding the implementation of the COVID-19 response and my experience as a result of that implementation, and potential future responses in the event of a similar situation occurring (in particular future pandemics).

Key Points

1. Governance

I have concerns regarding the failure by both legislative and administrative arms of the Commonwealth Government to comply with its international obligations to protect the Human Rights of its citizens in accordance with the Nuremberg Code of 1947 (to which the Government is a signatory), to ensure the requirement of voluntary informed consent of the human subject to any medical treatment. It is noted that the Therapeutic Goods Association of Australia did not give full registration to any of the COVID-19 vaccinations until 21 April 2023 at the earliest, well after the pandemic status was withdrawn by the Commonwealth Government. Prior to that date all vaccinations were only provisionally approved, and accordingly should be considered 'experimental'.

The Code states that an individual must *"be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion; and should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding and enlightened decision"*.

The Commonwealth Government simply ignored its obligations under the Nuremberg Code and transferred responsibility onto the State Governments and private enterprise. As a result thousands of Australian citizens, of which I am one, have suffered degrading treatment from the implementation of campaigns for vaccinations and policies which impacted on social standing, caused ostracism from both colleagues, friends and family, reduced access to public life, and ultimately resulted in loss of employment. This caused both financial stress and psychological distress which is ongoing for many.

Freedom of thought, and acting in accordance with one's own conscience and belief, based on independent research were discouraged and treated as being against the 'public interest'. This is fundamentally against the Australian culture, and insults the memory of my ancestors who died protecting those rights.

Two Bills introduced to the Federal Government, the COVID-19 Vaccination Status (Prevention of Discrimination) Bill 2022 and the Fair Work Amendment (Prohibiting COVID-19 Vaccine Discrimination) Bill 2023, would have addressed these issues to protect the Human Rights of all Australian citizens. These Bills should be reconsidered and introduced again to safeguard against threatened encroachments on Human Rights.

2. Public Health Messaging

The Public Health messaging, particularly that put forward by the Health Minister, and supported by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), purported that the vaccinations were safe and effective, after analysis by the TGA. The TGA did not give full registration to any of the COVID-19 vaccinations until 21 April 2023 at the earliest, well after the pandemic status was withdrawn by the Commonwealth Government. Prior to that date all vaccinations were only provisionally approved. This did not form any part of the public health messaging, and accordingly Australian citizens were unable to consider potential risks from what was not a fully approved treatment, but instead an experimental treatment.

Also Health Practitioners were unable to give full and frank consideration and advice to patients regarding the benefits and possible side effects (particularly long term) of the vaccinations which was outside the Government narrative, nor were they able to consider alternate treatments to that narrative. (*Attached Letter by Associate Professor Christopher Neil, Australian Medical Professionals Society – referred to as “Dr Altman Report”*)

Health Practitioners were also (anecdotally) unable to freely consider and report on the results of negative impact on patient health as a result of receiving the vaccinations, without censorship from the government authorities.

This clearly did not allow citizens to give fully informed and voluntary consent prior to the receipt of the vaccinations.

3. Broader impacts by COVID-19 and/or lockdowns

Government policies and messaging, failed to address or consider fundamental Human Rights, or alternative treatments and policies which would have negated the necessity for the lockdowns, causing significant financial stresses, ongoing psychological harms, and physical harms caused by negative reactions to what was an experimental treatment.

