

Covid 19 Response Inquiry Submission

I am one of many individuals in Australia who believe that some of the restrictions imposed by the State and Territory Governments were inconsistent, irrational and the cause of much trauma. The measures taken by some State Governments particularly in relation to border closures were extremely damaging emotionally, physically and financially to many Australians.

Along with many other Australians I live in one State and have family in other States. In my case my [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] live in the ACT and my [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] lived in Queensland. I was required to quarantine in a hotel for two weeks on two occasions to visit my [REDACTED] before she passed away. On another occasion I was trapped in the ACT when it went into lock down and was denied entry to Victoria where I lived with my [REDACTED]. We were separated for three months because just as the Victorian border finally opened up, my [REDACTED] health had deteriorated and I had to apply to be allowed into Queensland. The fact that I was vaccinated and tested negative didn't make any difference to the Victorian or Queensland Governments. When I was prevented from leaving the ACT to go home to Victoria the number of Covid cases per head of population was less in the ACT than in Victoria but that didn't seem to be considered either.

Given that it is highly likely with growing population we will experience another pandemic, I believe it is crucial that the Federal Government determine which actions by the States were effective and which actions caused unnecessary trauma for many Australians and impose a consistent approach in the future.

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