

I am disabled and immunocompromised from a [REDACTED] transplant I undertook for [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The personal impact of the decisions made by National Cabinet has been not feeling safe enough to even consider returning to work.

In my personal experience, COVID-19 vaccinations and treatments have been poorly communicated by the government. The federal government needs to be providing information to the public that is truthful, up to date and scientifically accurate. The Federal Health department could improve Public Health messaging by actually acknowledging that COVID-19 is a dangerous and disabling virus for all people, not just people in "vulnerable" groups.

In my personal experience, the government's policies regarding financial support during the pandemic were sufficient during the first year but abysmal since then.

My feedback is that disabled and medically vulnerable people have experienced complete social ostracization due to the pandemic and this could be addressed by the government at least enforcing COVID-19 mandates such as masking policies and better air purification/ventilation in medical facilities, supermarkets, shops, dentists and other places where they must be able to access to survive.

My personal experience of the pandemic inequities faced by Australians due to being immunocompromised and disabled has been alienating and traumatising and I call on the government to respond with compassion and community focused solutions.

Australia would be better prepared for current and future pandemics if the government would invest in Clean Air in schools, masks in healthcare, better access to antivirals and timely updated vaccines. There is a gap in Australia's response in all things mentioned and there is an opportunity to rectify that.