

Submission to support enquiry into handling of the COVID 19 crisis in Australia.

I am an education officer in special education working across 56 schools in Newcastle. I have worked in the field of special education for 35 years and as a teacher for 46 years. I have a Masters Degree in Special Education.

During the pandemic we were told that children were not at high risk of serious illness from the COVID virus but were potential spreaders and possible “granny killers”. From the data produced from several sources including the TGA data, we know that healthy children were not at risk of serious health injury from COVID and we also know, and knew in 2021 from esteemed doctors and scientists, that A-symptomatic transmission was baloney.

Since the return of students to school in November 2021, after extended periods of lockdown, the impact on student’s well-being, mental health, arrested social development and mental health has been immeasurable. The effects on student learning, especially those thousands of students starting school in 2021 and 2022, and young students in the early years of their schooling, is still being dealt with in 2023.

I call for and support an enquiry into the handling of the COVID pandemic in Australia so that government and officials will operate, in future, from a place of evidence, truth and integrity. There are hundreds of thousands of children and young people who have had their mental health and education impacted severely. This negative impact will shape society to some extent for generations.

Thank you for accepting this submission.

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