

## ***To the Members of the Independent Panel,***

*I am writing this submission as I am very concerned over a number of aspects of Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the Prime Minister going back on his word when he said he would have a Royal Commission into the COVID-19 pandemic, Australia has been dealt with an Inquiry to look into improving pandemic preparedness and as a result, there are critical areas that really need scrutinizing.*

### **My Concerns regarding Specific Pandemic Measures**

**Communication Strategies:** *It is very clear that there was an unwarranted excessive use of fear in public health messaging and media reporting. It's important to analyse whether such communication strategies were effective or whether they contributed to unnecessary panic and distress among the public.*

**Mask and Vaccine Mandates:** *The implementation of mask and vaccine mandates had major detrimental impacts on individual freedoms, social dynamics and the individual's basic human rights. These measures, were very often, extremely invasive, and requires an in depth review to assess their necessity and effectiveness.*

**Lockdowns, Curfews and Lockouts:** *The economic, social, and psychological impacts of lockdowns curfews and lockouts have been hugely profound. An evaluation of these measures is essential to understand their long-term effects on Australian society and whether they were the most appropriate response.*

### **Concerns regarding the Composition and Scope of the Inquiry**

**Panel Composition:** *I am very concerned over The appointment of Inquiry panel members who have previously expressed support for certain pandemic measures as this seriously raises questions about the objectivity and impartiality of the Inquiry. Any Panel members who have expressed support for such measures should remove themselves from the Panel.*

**Exclusion of Unilateral State and Territory Government Decisions:** *One of the most significant omissions in the Inquiry's scope is the exclusion of actions taken unilaterally by state and territory governments. These decisions, including state-imposed lockdowns*

*and border controls, were pivotal to the nation's pandemic response and had significant detrimental effects on all Australians and should be included in the Inquiry.*

### **There is a Need for a Very Comprehensive Review**

*While the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry are extensive, it is crucial that the areas mentioned above are not glossed over. A truly comprehensive review should include all aspects of the government's response, including those currently outside the Inquiry's scope.*

### **Conclusion**

*This submission represents my call for a more inclusive and thorough investigation into Australia's COVID-19 response. It also strongly urges for freedom, liberty and peoples' basic human rights to never ever, ever be cast aside with the fearmongering as it was done by the Australian governments during the pandemic with the detrimental effects it had. We strongly urge the Inquiry to consider these points to ensure transparency, accountability, and the further safeguarding of Australian values and liberties that our diggers so arduously fought for.*

*Sincerely,*

*Joanne Kreher*