

The following submission is written by a private mixed practice veterinarian registered in the state of NSW, from a rural town, and outlines how the government should be responding to the current pandemic, as well as future pandemics.

Politicians should not be able to cherry pick medical advice:

- Health advice should not be selected based on political convenience.
- CMOs should not be forced to give bad advice for political reasons.
- Policy should not be informed by scientists who give consistently incorrect or dangerous advice.

Transparent and Peer-Reviewed Decision-Making:

- Establish a transparent and peer-reviewed expert body to make decisions, leaving no room for vested interests.
- Conduct health decision-making in open forums to allow public scrutiny.

Legislation Against Harmful Advice:

- It should be illegal for politicians and media organisations to spread advice that will lead to death or disability.
- For example, promoting hand hygiene for an airborne virus, or encouraging returning to work or school while infectious.

Recognise Modes of Transmission:

- Until mode of transmission for a novel infection can be proven and verified, apply the precautionary principle and protect against airborne spread.
- Ensure adequate respiratory protection for the population.

Enhance Quarantine Measures:

- Restricting movement is an effective form of containing the spread of a virus.
- Improve quarantine facilities and measures based on the precautionary principle.
- Construct purpose-built facilities in each capital city for effective containment.

Pandemic Elimination as a Goal:

- Emphasise the goal of pandemic elimination.
- Encourage collaboration between state jurisdictions for effective containment.

Invest in Public Health Communication:

- Promote truthful information about health risks even if it challenges political narratives.

Prioritise Health Over the Economy:

- Recognise that a healthy population is crucial for economic stability.
- Prioritise health in governance to ensure long-term economic well-being.