

To whom it may concern,

I was employed as a Registered Nurse at the [REDACTED] Hospital in the Emergency Department.

When the mandate came for healthcare workers to be vaccinated against Covid-19 I did not believe there was enough long term randomised double blind placebo control trials (Gold standard of evidence) for me to give informed consent to receive a Covid-19 vaccine. During the time of the vaccine rollout, I witnessed many staff members in tears at the thought of having to get the vaccine as they had to choose between being able to earn an income to survive and getting the vaccine. I was subject to many cruel remarks from colleagues regarding not getting the vaccine and was told I would be placing my patients in dangers and how careless I was. For someone who is extremely empathetic and who loves helping other people this was awful to be constantly told I was endangering patients. As a newly graduated nurse I still have a large HECS debt to be paid off and not being able to work in my capacity as a nurse has caused much financial stress. I am still dealing with the financial stress of not being able to work as a nurse. I have been required to go back to University and study in another field that does not have vaccine mandates. This has significantly impacted my future as I have fallen behind financially by not being able to work in my chosen career of being a Registered Nurse. This will have lasting impacts on my mental health. I will now have an extremely large HECS debt, not be able to buy a house in my intended time frame, won't be able to afford to start a family as soon as I had planned and have had to relocate to study again.

Whilst I was working in the Emergency Department we often were short staffed for shifts and we were ramping ambulances nearly every single day. I hear from past colleagues that they are even more short staffed these days. I want you to consider that by not allowing many capable nurses to work and therefore having shortages of staff is this not putting patients in more danger? It is clear now that the vaccine does not stop transmission. I personally take great care of my health and I have never caught covid-19 despite being exposed to cases many times. As published in a plethora of studies those who are most at risk of covid-19 are the elderly, the obese and diabetics, all of which I do not fit the category. I was told many times that I would catch and spread Covid-19 by being unvaccinated and it is clear that this was false information.

Thank you.