

COVID-19 Response Inquiry: [REDACTED] (15/12/2023)

I write as an Australian citizen, profoundly concerned about aspects of the response of the Commonwealth Government to the COVID-19 pandemic and its (ongoing) impact on the democratic rights and freedoms of all Australians.

The purpose of the Inquiry is to improve response measures in the event of future pandemics, and this can only be achieved by acknowledging failures, identifying conflicts of interest and upholding the principles of transparency and accountability.

Key points of concern are summarised below, as broadly aligned to the Inquiry Terms of Reference:

- **Scope/Terms of Reference of the Inquiry**

- The scope/terms of reference of the inquiry are grossly inadequate, by:
 - Excluding all state and territory government decisions and unilateral actions (including lockdowns, border closures, school closures, mask mandates, vaccine mandates, quarantine and check-in rules).
 - Omitting an explicit focus on the impact of Australia's COVID response on human rights, including the right to freedom of movement; right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; the right to freedom of opinion and expression (this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers); the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association; the right to work; the right to education (and for parents to have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children (<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>); as well as the right to 'Informed consent' as outlined in the Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights.
 - Providing a submission period of one week, without advance notice.
 - The appointment of Inquiry panel members who have previously expressed support for certain pandemic measures, which undermines the objectivity and impartiality of the Inquiry.
- These omissions render the Inquiry inherently selective and superficial.

- A comprehensive, objective Inquiry encapsulating the response of all levels of government is required to adequately evaluate the government's response and recommend meaningful changes.

- **Governance**

- The COVID-19 pandemic saw unprecedented measures taken through overreach of government authority, suspending civil liberties and freedoms under the guise of public health.
 - This consolidation of power - such as through Prime Minister Scott Morrison secretly acquiring 5 ministry appointments (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-17/scott-morrison-secret-ministry-appointments-who-knew-timeline/101337414>), and lack of transparency - such as seeking to keep secret minutes of the National Cabinet Meetings

(<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/sep/02/a-sore-loser-scott-morrison-attacked-over-move-to-keep-national-cabinet-deliberations-secret>), are antithetical to our core democratic principles.

- Our democratic values include tolerance of differences and opposing ideas; freedom of speech, association, movement and freedom of belief; as well as respect for individuals and their right to make their own choices
(https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/House_of_Representatives/About_the_House_News/News/Parliament_Explained_Democracy)
 - However, the government actively sought to censor views on social media that did not align with Government narrative
(<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/feb/17/australias-department-of-home-affairs-made-most-requests-for-covid-misinformation-takedowns>), setting a dangerous precedent for silencing dissenting views and public debate
- The federal government failed to introduce anti-discrimination legislation to prevent discrimination against the unvaccinated [such as would have been achieved through the Vaccination Status (Prevention of Discrimination) Bill 2022 and the Fair Work Amendment (Prohibiting COVID-19 Vaccine Discrimination) Bill 2023], including to protect those who may have been fired for not receiving an injection, or denied access to medical services, or entry in to businesses and essential services. This enabled coerced vaccination whilst asserting it was not 'mandated'. Outsourcing this decision to states and businesses rubber stamps institutional discrimination.
- **Measures must be taken to uphold transparency, accountability, freedom of speech and informed consent in future pandemics, whilst also protecting against all forms of discrimination.**
- **Key health response measures**
 - The health response of the Government was singular, coercive and ineffective, hinging on provisionally-approved, experimental gene therapy 'vaccines'.
 - With in excess \$18 billion dollars spent on COVID-19 vaccines and treatments (<https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/covid-19-vaccines/about-rollout/vaccine-agreements>), with less than a quarter of purchased COVID-19 vaccines having been utilised (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-18/australia-covid-vaccine-surplus-options/101237430>), this was a gross misuse of taxpayer monies.
 - These vaccines were unanimously promoted by the Australian Government as 'safe and effective' ("Getting vaccinated is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your community from getting very sick or dying from COVID-19" - <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-04/covid-19-vaccination-covid-19-vaccines-common-questions.pdf>). However, they were only provisionally-approved, with extremely limited testing, indeed, not having been tested for effectiveness at preventing transmission: <https://www.news.com.au/technology/science/human-body/pfizer-did-not-know-whether-covid-vaccine-stopped-transmission-before-rollout-executive-admits/news-story/f307f28f794e173ac017a62784fec414>).
 - Furthermore, significant side effects are associated with these vaccines. This has revealed the gross inadequacies in both the (voluntary) Adverse Event Reporting system (<https://phillipaltman.substack.com/p/australias-adverse-drug-event-reporting>), as well as with regard to the treatment of the

vaccine-injured through the narrow Federal Scheme
(<https://umbrellanews.com.au/featured/2023/06/government-stalls-on-compo-for-covid-vaccine-injuries/>).

- Australia's excess death rate has soared by more than 10 percent since COVID-19 vaccine distribution in 2021, which cannot be explained by COVID, as demonstrated in the Australian Medical Professionals Association's publication 'Too Many Dead.' An inquiry must be undertaken in relation to excess deaths in Australia, however, this has not been supported to date (<https://www.flownews24.com.au/post/inquiry-needed-into-excess-deaths-in-australia-antic>)
 - This singular focus on vaccination came at the omission of a public health campaign to address COVID-19 risk factors, such as obesity and Vitamin D insufficiency, as well as less expensive, less dangerous treatments, such as Ivermectin (which, instead, was suppressed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration - <https://www.tga.gov.au/news/media-releases/new-restrictions-prescribing-ivermectin-covid-19>)
 - Furthermore, recent agreements between Australian and state governments and global vaccine developers to produce on-shore respiratory mRNA vaccines for potential future pandemics raises significant questions of conflict of interest (<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/mrna-vaccines-be-made-australia> .
 - The communication strategy undertaken by the Commonwealth government was categorised by an unwarranted use of fear, oversimplification of public health messaging and an 'othering' – or outright silencing - of dissenting voices.
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- I strongly advocate repealing the 2017 legislation creating Provisional Registration and insist on proper testing for novel drugs.
 - I implore you to immediately halt the distribution of gene-vaccine products pending independent testing.
 - An inquiry must be undertaken in relation to excess deaths in Australia
 - These public/private partnerships should not be allowed to direct policy or the 'recommended' medical interventions.
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- **Support for industry and business / Financial supports/ Community supports**
 - The failure of the Federal Government to support businesses and schools to remain open, should they so choose, whilst rolling out a suite of government grants, payments and stimulus that disincentivised returning to work, is a further step towards Australia becoming a 'nanny state', with crippling effects on the Australian economy, as evidenced by the current inflation-driven cost of living crisis. It was not, in fact, COVID-19, but the Government's response to it, that "caused significant disruption to historic patterns of growth in the Australian economy" (<https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/economic-gains-and-losses-over-covid-19-pandemic>).