

Submission to Covid-19 Response Inquiry

I am a [REDACTED] year-old, [REDACTED]

It is my firm belief that the Australian Government's response to Covid-19 was completely disproportionate to the actual threat of the disease and did (and continues to do) far more harm than any good.

Initially, I believed the government was acting with wisdom, supposedly knowing more about this allegedly novel disease than I did and trying its best to protect the nation's people. However, I became doubtful that the response was, in fact, for the good of the people, when I realized that the government was purposely fuelling fear in the population – trying to terrify citizens into giving up their inalienable freedoms – in the name of a virus, which, in reality, was not actually killing more people than a bad flu would have.

Fear is the tactic of criminals and tyrants to get what they want. It should never be the tactic of a free nation's government to supposedly "protect" its people.

The government's covid response was played out with extreme tunnel-vision. The authorities were singularly focused on preventing the number of "cases" of the virus through lock-down and isolation; no matter whether these "case" numbers would ever translate into anything more than a mild cold. There was no attention paid to the simple prevention of severe illness through the age-old remedies of good diet and vitamin intake, vitamin d (sunlight) exposure, and good mental and spiritual health. Instead, citizens were locked in their homes, denied the ability to worship God, denied the ability to run their businesses, or work their jobs, or go to school, separated from their loved ones (including those who were dying, whom they would never see again), and suffered to a constant barrage of fear-driven messages 24/7.

The initial caution about travel to and from China was prudent, but after that, the response became absurdly out of hand and tyrannical.

No-one should have been locked-down ever, especially not the healthy, or those who *may* have been exposed. People who were sick, could have been advised (not forced) to stay at home, and those who were not sick should have been free to live their lives unhindered.

No-one should have been denied entry to any event or place that they would have been legally allowed to enter pre-2020. No-one should have been forced to "check-in" and have their private movements tracked. The government wasted an outrageous amount of taxpayers' money on the making and advertising of the "covid-safe app", which nobody even ended up using (the States replacing it with their own apps). The Federal government should have done everything in its power to stop the State governments from dividing Australia and preventing citizens from crossing state-borders. Australians were forced, like eastern Europeans under communist rule, to "show their papers" to travel to another part of their own, (free) country. This must never ever happen again.

The lock-downs, travel restrictions, social distancing etc. caused unimaginable harm, and they were never part of Australia's officially planned pandemic response in the first place. Why were the official plans not followed? Why did the government destroy lives and the economy with such a myopic response to this issue? Different views were belittled, repressed, censored, and attacked, even when they came from experts. When the desperate plight of those being harmed by these measures was raised by some, it was ignored or crushed by the government. Those who lost their loved ones to suicide or their business to lock-down, or their sanity to social isolation must blame the government response, not the virus. Australians in the past, lived with diseases which had higher mortality rates

than covid-19, and so we can again. Lock-downs, border-closures, social isolation and mandates must never again be used for pandemic response in this country.

What should have happened?

The Government should have followed Australia's officially planned (pre-2020) pandemic response. It was known quite early in the pandemic that the elderly, the obese, those with diabetes and other co-morbidities were at greater risk of severe illness from Covid-19 infection. Those in these categories could have had home isolation, travel caution etc. recommended to them, and been more closely monitored if they were infected. Everyone else, especially the young and healthy, should have been advised to practise good hygiene (such as washing hands and staying home when sick) and, otherwise, should have been unaffected and uninhibited by this outbreak. Masks could have been recommended to those who were sick, when they needed to be out in public, but should never have been recommended (and never ever mandated) to those who were not sick. Masks restrict oxygen intake, encourage the build-up of bacteria and lead to the inhalation of microparticles. The government, as in past times, should have recommended against healthy people wearing masks during the pandemic.

As mentioned above, the Federal Government could have done more to ensure Australia was not divided back into isolated colonies, with Premiers and unelected Chief Health Officers being given unprecedented power over the people who were unfortunate enough to live in their part of the country. With the formation of the National Cabinet and the frequent meetings held between the Prime Minister and the State Premiers, why were the concerns of Australians not being heard? What happened in the National Cabinet Meetings? Did [REDACTED] reveal, for instance, that he would mandate the vaccine for every, single industry in Victoria; effectively [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (prohibited in the Australian Government's Immunization handbook) to be vaccinated whether they gave consent or not? Scott Morrison promised Australians that the vaccine would not be mandated, yet the Federal Government sat back and did nothing to protect citizens from the pressure and coercion inflicted upon them by the States. Federal Legislation could and should have been passed that prevented discrimination based on immunization status. The minutes/transcripts from these meetings should have been made fully available and unredacted to Australians, considering the issues discussed directly affected them. If the decisions had been discussed in the parliament, as they had always been before, Australians would have had access to this information and their representative MPs would have been able to have a say and raise their concerns. The amount of secrecy surrounding these meetings was unprecedented and completely inappropriate for a democratic nation

In fact, the amount of secrecy involved in the covid response overall was not acceptable. For instance, why were the contracts between the government and the vaccine manufacturers secret? When the government spends 8 billion dollars of tax-payer funds, we should know what exactly they bought into. The amount of money spent and wasted on the covid response by the government has been excessive, and that doesn't even take into account the destruction of the economy (of which we are now feeling the results) due to unnecessary, ineffective lock-downs.

All-in-all, the Australian government's response to the covid pandemic mimicked that of other over-reacting countries, such as China, and included the kind of secrecy, narrative-control and propaganda that you would have expected from said communist nation, rather than a democracy. There was none of the home-grown inventiveness and ingenuity and open scientific debate that would have occurred in crises of the past. Why did Australia censor many of its own scientific experts? Why did

Australia allow the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] without say even over their own bodies, rather than free and dignified human beings?

The power, control, censorship, propaganda, and secrecy displayed in the Australian government's covid response, has given rise to its belief that Australians are seemingly ok with the government taking control of their lives, bodies and privacy, and has led to a whole slew of other power-hungry, freedom-stripping legislation being put forward by the government, such as misinformation and digital ID bills. Australians do not want these things. Australians did not want the covid response they were given. The errors and gross violations of human rights must be called-out now, so as to never be repeated in the future.

- both the health and non-health responses
- responsibilities of the Commonwealth Government and the role of state and territory governments
- how national governance arrangements including National Cabinet, informed decisions by governments.