

Submission to Commonwealth Government COVID-19 Response Inquiry

Prepared by [REDACTED] 15 December 2023

This is a brief personal submission, submitted in memory of my [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. A vibrant [REDACTED] year old woman, an entertainer, an artist, a humanitarian, a person to love. [REDACTED] was killed by the [REDACTED] vaccine. Family and friends will never recover from this needless death.

It addresses three of the terms of reference.

- *Governance including the role of the Commonwealth Government, responsibilities of state and territory governments, national governance mechanisms (such as National Cabinet, the National Coordination Mechanism and the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee) and advisory bodies supporting responses to COVID-19.*

ATAGI, the key committee advising on the roll out of the vaccines was pressured through Prime Minister Morrison's press conference (June 2021) to change its advice in respect of the limitations that were to be applied to the use of the [REDACTED] vaccine. This action led [REDACTED] to believe that the vaccine was safe for her. What were Morrison's reasons for applying this pressure? Because his government thought one vaccine deal was sufficient? We must never see Australia in such a situation again where a politician takes it upon themselves to pressure an independent health advisory committee.

- *Key health response measures (for example across COVID-19 vaccinations and treatments, key medical supplies such as personal protective equipment, quarantine facilities, and public health messaging).*

For [REDACTED], there was very little risk that Covid would kill her. The [REDACTED] vaccine on the other hand was being dropped like a hot potato by countries across the world in first half 2021. It was definitely known to be a risk for younger women in particular. The question must be asked, why did Australia's key health advisors not pay heed to the experts in these other countries? It would seem because the government put all its eggs in the [REDACTED] basket and no other option. Why did it do this? Who decided to do this? Why was the public health messaging to younger people urging them to get vaccinated? The risk benefit balance was simply not there for younger people with a flawed vaccine like [REDACTED].

- *International policies to support Australians at home and abroad (including with regard to international border closures, and securing vaccine supply deals with international partners for domestic use in Australia).*

The failure of the Health Minister to secure a timely wide ranging choice of vaccines for Australia was well publicised in 2021. This failure, and the consequential pressure that the federal government found itself under, in my view led to the deeply regrettable decision by ATAGI to buckle under the PM's pressure and change the health advice in respect of [REDACTED] and younger people in mid 2021. It was a costly decision.

What are we to do as a family? Government failure normally does not wreak such devastation. We are heartbroken and fractured in so many ways because of it.

After her first dose of [REDACTED], [REDACTED] tragically passed away on [REDACTED] [REDACTED], aged [REDACTED] resident of [REDACTED], from VITTTS – vaccine induced thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome, confirmed without doubt by the doctors treating her at the time at [REDACTED] Hospital.

Thank you for conducting this inquiry. We hope that it will leave us all better off than we were in 2020.

We would like you to get to know [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]