

I am a small business owner and also the parent of [REDACTED] when the pandemic started. The pandemic naturally brought a lot of stress and fear.

The business support response by both the federal and state government in Victoria were the only thing that allowed my business to survive the lockdowns in Melbourne. However, I do wholeheartedly support the lockdown response as a means to keep stress off the health system and to allow us the chance to be vaccinated first.

Online schooling although difficult allowed my oldest child who [REDACTED] and struggles within the ill equipped education system to thrive. Working from home allowed my husband to connect with his family more than he had been able to before and brought balance and flexibility to our home. All of this should be an ongoing option for children and adults long term. Many children are anxious within the education system because of its numerous and many downfalls and discriminatory practices. There should be learning from home options for all children. Working from home has shown to allow for better productivity as people are able to work flexibly around their families.

Sending children back to school before they had the chance to be adequately vaccinated was not only a mistake but a complete failure on the governing body's behalf. Children were used as a means to get adults back to the workplace. Something that studies have shown is not any more beneficial productivity wise. [REDACTED] my children have now had covid from the school system. My youngest now has [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Neither of my children are eligible for a booster. Something that goes against what many other countries are doing. Children have not been protected and I look forward to the day the government is sued for this negligence.

Good luck with your inquiry.