

Submission to COVID Inquiry

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1. The ongoing COVID pandemic has elevated infectious diseases into one of Australia's leading contemporary causes of death.
2. The debates and decisions of the first years of the pandemic have shaped the subsequent public health response. Although much was done well in those early years, much was not.
3. I have recounted the history of those years in a number of papers, the most complete being Duckett (2022b), attached to this submission.
4. The review has an opportunity to look forward into what might be done differently in the future.
5. In my view critical to that is trying to get all the players on the same page. Unfortunately, that was not the case in 2020 and 2021 as I have demonstrated.
6. So, how might that be done? At the least there should be transparency: the advice of public officials should be available for scrutiny and debate contemporaneously as I have argued in Duckett (2022a), also attached to the submission.

Duckett, Stephen. 2022a. "Australia's COVID-19 response." In *Democracy in Asia*, edited by Ryan Hass and Patricia M. Kim, 105-112. Washington DC: Brookings Institution.

Duckett, Stephen. 2022b. "Public Health Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Australia: The Role of the Morrison Government." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 19 (16):10400.