

[REDACTED]

11.11.2023

Submission to Covid 19 Enquiry

My name is Morny Cochrane and I live in Melbourne. I have three adult sons. This submission refers to the Covid Restrictions' impact on our entire family: one of complete and lifelong devastation.

My middle son [REDACTED] was working with the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] as the [REDACTED]. With lock downs and working from home [REDACTED] became severely depressed and took his own life in December 2021. His body was found hanging in his apartment three weeks later, with us being notified on January 10th 2022.

We were aware of his condition but my attempts to gain permission to go to [REDACTED] were unheard. We were unable to get information from [REDACTED] from the Red Cross (for privacy reasons), from his doctor (same reason) and he gradually cut off all his friends. He was unable to travel to Australia for the same reason and as his communication ceased with us our desperation escalated but literally no one would take my concerns seriously.

After [REDACTED] body was found the worldwide [REDACTED] were utterly shell shocked and bewildered by his action. He was well loved, extremely competent at his role and well known in many countries for his humanitarian commitment, his courage and his sense of humour. The world is poorer for his absence.

[REDACTED] and his wife were separated but lived within view of each other's apartments so as to care for their beautiful son [REDACTED]. It was [REDACTED] who raised the alarm that something wasn't right after she returned from her Christmas holidays and realised his car hadn't moved.

Nothing can help our situation I know. I will never come to terms with this senseless loss, and probably never forgive those for whom "Privacy issues" over road plain common sense. Some at the [REDACTED] have been able to admit they could have done more. No one expects someone of [REDACTED] calibre, intelligence, recognition and talent to commit suicide.

My decision to share this pain with you is to make sure there is always an avenue in the future for travel to be allowed in these urgent circumstances. Mental health is now so much part of daily life but my calls to anywhere I could think of brought me no avenue. I was told several times that I needed information from [REDACTED] medical people. How on earth was I able to get that? His medical practitioner and his superiors at [REDACTED] all refused me information on [REDACTED] status.

He died alone and no one knew for three weeks!!

As [REDACTED] mother I am proud of the work he did, of the difference he made to so many lives, of the man he was, the father he was and the son and brother he was.

Pride doesn't fill the void, nor does time seem to ease the guilt I live with that we somehow allowed this tragedy to happen.

Please, as you review Australia's covid strategy do not forget the [REDACTED] we ignored and lost.

Thank you for your time,

Yours sincerely,

Morny Cochrane