

4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

To The COVID-19 Response Inquiry Panel,

I wrote a letter back in August of 2021 and sent it to a number of both State and Federal Parliamentarians. Reading back through the letter brought back traumatic memories of the absolute reign of tyranny citizens of Australia faced during the Covid-19 pandemic, as a direct result of Government intervention and policies.

In this submission I will outline some key points that I believe highlights the utter failure of our Government to adapt to new data and evidence and preserve fundamental human rights during the course of the pandemic.

1. Government failed to refer to existing documentation around pandemic preparedness and instead created panicked “solutions” on the run such as locking down all citizens, which never formed part of any prior recommendations.
2. Failure to adapt to real life data and instead continued to develop policies based on inaccurate modelling. For example the average age of a COVID-19 death in Australia was higher than the average life expectancy. There was a 97.7% recovery rate across Australia (as at July 2021). These statistics were ignored and instead case numbers were the focus which lead to disproportionate interventions.
3. Shutting down parliament for a significant period of time so no debates or democratic processes could take place.
4. One dimensional approach to the fanciful idea of eradicating Covid-19 which inevitably lead to consequences that were far more problematic than the disease. For example, the significant rise in mental health related concerns due to the complete and devastating isolation during lockdowns. On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 Lifeline reported 3,436 calls in one-single-day. The highest daily number of phone calls in their history. Worst still, the flow on effects to mental health are still seen today. Another consequence of the lockdowns was where small family businesses were demolished while multinationals and big corporations thrived under lockdown policies. Families never recovered financially and recently pressure has been exacerbated by the increased cost of living.
5. Citizens were commanded to “stay at home”, “work from home”, “only leave for essential reasons” and yet our Prime Minister left Australia to meet with world leaders for the G7 Summit. Why couldn’t this have taken place online? Hypocritical leadership that has no right to determine what is and isn’t essential when it comes to being able to make a living to put food on the table and a roof over your families head.
6. Turned a blind eye to experts and other places around the world that provided alternate strategies to lockdowns. For example, the demonisation of the warnings and suggestions outlined in the Great Barrington Declaration despite thousands of experts

signing on worldwide. Countries and places such as Sweden, South Korea and Florida allowed life to proceed whilst managing the virus. Sweden never locked down, never forced a business to close, never implemented mask mandates or caps on gatherings. They simply encouraged people to take responsibility for themselves, keep their distance where possible and protect the most vulnerable. Sweden's approach was constantly ridiculed by the self labelled 'trustworthy' media as "...an example of how not to handle the COVID-19 pandemic" but as the data showed, this was far from the truth. 21 out of 30 countries across Europe had higher excess mortality rates than Sweden in 2020 and their case numbers continued to stabilise. At the end of July 2021, their daily rolling average COVID-19 death toll was ZERO.

7. Failure to respond to the overwhelming number of adverse reports (TGA) due to the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccines. The most responsible decision would be to shut the rollout down.
8. Refusal to pay compensation to people who were injured by the vaccines via the compensation scheme. (Read more here: <https://gerardrennick.com.au/tga-are-the-culprits-again-rejecting-vaccine-compensation-claims/>)
9. Abusing the sanctity of the doctor/patient relationship. The federal government enabled this by allowing business and other places to gain access to private medical information for example, vaccination status.
10. Deprived citizens of effective early treatment options.

There are a number of other examples but these were the most prominent in terms of their impact to fundamental human rights and citizens freedom.

Thank you for taking the time to read and I hope it provides some points of deep reflection.

I look forward to hearing the results from the inquiry and hope that it shapes policies in a more just way should there be another situation like this in future.

Regards,

