

To:

Adjunct Professor John Skerritt, Therapeutics Goods Administration  
Professor Nigel Crawford, Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation  
Professor Michelle Giles, Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation  
Professor Katie Flanagan, Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation  
Professor Paul Kelly, Chief Medical Officer, Australia  
Professor Brett Sutton, Chief Health Officer, Victoria  
Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer, NSW  
Dr John Gerrard, Chief Health Officer, QLD  
Dr Andrew Robertson, Chief Health Officer, WA  
Dr Mark Veitch, Director of Public Health, Tasmania  
Professor Nicola Spurrier, Chief Public Health Officer, South Australia  
Dr Kerryn Coleman, Chief Health Officer, ACT  
Dr Charles Pain, Acting Chief Health Officer, NT

Cc:

[www.ClarityonHealth.org](http://www.ClarityonHealth.org)

Media outlets

19<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## **AUSTRALIAN SURVEY OF REASONS FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION**

Dear Professor Skerritt, Members of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI), Professor Kelly and chief health officers of all Australian states and territories,

I write this open letter to let you know the findings of an online survey carried out in Australia between February 18<sup>th</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The aim of the survey was to find out to what extent the vaccine roll-out complied with the principles of medical ethics espoused in the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

As I am sure you are aware, the Australian Immunisation Handbook states that, to be valid, consent for vaccination “must be given voluntarily in the absence of undue pressure, coercion or manipulation”.

And, UNESCO’s Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights states, in Article 6, states that “any preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic medical intervention is only to be carried out with the prior, free and informed consent of the person concerned, based on adequate information.”

Although this was the biggest roll-out of vaccines in Australia’s history, I am not aware of an effort on the part of the TGA, ATAGI, the Federal Department of Health or state and territory health departments to ascertain whether the roll-out was carried out in line with these key principles of medical ethics.

Through my business, Clarity on Health, I set up an online survey to measure this.

In total 26,680 Australians responded to the online survey.

People responded from every Federal electoral division in the nation, with the most responses received from people in Casey, VIC (592 responses) and the fewest from Watson, NSW (29 responses).

Most of the respondents were people who had chosen not to be vaccinated, but almost 10,000 people (9,861) who had received at least one dose of a COVID-19, completed the survey.

When asked to choose from a list of 28 possible reasons for having their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccination, the most frequent reason selected by these respondents was “to keep my job”, selected by 39.2% (3,785 people).

The second-most frequent response was “it was mandated for my job or profession”, chosen by a further 18.7% (1,803 people).

The third-most frequent reason for getting vaccinated was “so that I would be allowed to travel within my state, interstate or overseas”, selected as their main reason by 6.2% (597 people).

It was not until position five in the list that the first truly medically valid reason for getting vaccinated appeared: “To protect me from getting COVID-19”, chosen by 3.8% of vaccinated respondents (363 people) as their main reason.

Furthermore, the number of people who were vaccinated to protect their livelihood is underestimated by the survey. Some 4.9% (477 people) did not choose one of the 28 reasons but selected ‘Other’ and then typed in their reason. Many of these people, completely unprompted, said they had been “coerced” or “forced” or that they “had no choice”. They made it clear that they had to be vaccinated so they could earn a livelihood and put food on the table for their families, pay their rent or pay their mortgage.

Other comments made showed the situations into which people were put by governments’ responses to the pandemic, which led to people choosing to be vaccinated for many reasons other than to protect themselves from COVID-19. Please see a small sample of these in the attached Appendix. The bulk of the comments are available on the Clarity on Health website: [www.clarityonhealth.org](http://www.clarityonhealth.org)

Meanwhile, despite there being no questions asked in the survey about adverse events from having the vaccines, 11 people noted in a comment in the ‘Other’ section that they had experienced an adverse medical event from being vaccinated.

Returning to reasons that people chose to be vaccinated, a very similar pattern of response was seen when people were free to choose as many reasons as they liked rather than selecting a single ‘main reason’.

On average people chose 3.1 reasons, and the top three reasons were: “to keep my job”; “it was mandated for my job or profession” and “to enter my place of work”.

In a further question, people who had at least one vaccination dose were asked: Did you feel you were put under any pressure to have any of your doses of a COVID-19 vaccination? Please answer on a scale from 0 to 4 where 0 is no pressure at all and 4 is extreme pressure.

Just 8.5% of people (833 people) said they had felt under no pressure at all.

However, 77.0% of people – that's 7,559 Australians – selected the response: "I felt extremely pressured to have a COVID-19 vaccination".

The survey also shows that a further 8,362 people who had not received a vaccination to date, said at the time of doing the survey that they currently felt extremely pressured to have a dose.

Despite sending the survey to every Federal MP and senator in the country, and sending a press release to mainstream media, people who shared the survey on their social media channels tended to be those who were critical of the vaccination campaign, hence I do not claim that the results are representative of the Australian population.

Nevertheless, this survey demonstrates that, in contravention of the key principles of medical ethics already noted, 8,387 Australians felt either "very" or "extremely" pressured to be vaccinated.

It further shows that coercion – either by governments or employers – primarily through the threat to their job or livelihood was the main driver for vaccination among these Australians, rather than wanting to be vaccinated to be protected against the virus.

Furthermore, these results may be only the tip of an iceberg. There are possibly hundreds of thousands of Australians who have felt coerced to have these vaccinations, perhaps even millions.

In summary, these findings indicate that for thousands of Australians, the roll-out did not comply with long-standing principles of medical ethics.

In response to these findings, I believe the TGA or ATAGI should consider commissioning an arms-length survey of a representative sample of Australians by a professional survey organisation, as a matter of urgency. Data needs to be collected while the vaccination campaign is fresh in peoples' memories.

I attach a report detailing the results in full and the raw data is available on the Clarity on Health website, [www.clarityonhealth.org](http://www.clarityonhealth.org) for the whole of Australia and by state and territory.



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Appendix:

### **Some other reasons given for being vaccinated.**

'Coerced into getting 2 jabs in order to keep my job even though I worked alone on a forklift in open air and had little to no contact with other people.'

'Because I was forced to take it if I wanted to keep providing for my family. I have never been more upset about being forced into something in my life.'

'My employer of 27 years mandated it or would sack me with one day's notice.'

'I was about to lose my job and I'm a single parent. I was unwillingly vaccinated.'

'Government coercion and unlawful mandates. NO other reason. I didn't want it. AT ALL!'

'It was MANDATED!! Had no bloody choice!!'

'Andrews gave me two choices, get vaccinated or lose my business, and risk being penalized \$20 000 as individual or \$110 000 for business'

'Forced because all my freedoms were taken away, and the only way to gain freedoms back was to be vaccinated'

'Because the QLD government enforced ridiculous restrictions on everyday life and freedom.'

'I was forced by taking away my civil rights.'

'So I'm not excluded with things to do with my children. I did not want it.'

'Get a bank loan.'

'I have lost 2 jobs to Covid-19 mandates, I am trying to get another job. I cannot afford to eat, pay my rent or help my girls with their school fees. Also ,my girls have had to sign a contract with their school about avoiding Sydney and unvaccinated people. I would not be allowed onto school grounds without these trial vaccines.'

'I am not allowed to have life-saving surgery if I don't take an experimental injection.'

'It was suggested that my dialysis treatment would be at risk if I was not to have the jab.'

'My family was getting abuse because I was unvaccinated.'

'Worried I would be locked out of hospital when my wife gave birth.'

'At the time, last November, Dan Andrews was locking vax-free people out, from 12yo up, from entering most businesses. I am the wife/mother in a 5-person household & was horrified by the rules & felt I needed to make the sacrifice of unwanted & uncertain injections so we had one person in our home who was able to access important things for the rest of my family.'

'To visit family in jail.'

'Unable to enter palliative care to visit dying mother unless double vaxxed and unable to continue as volunteer firefighter unless double vaxxed.'

'To come home. I was in Victoria and needed to get home to the NT after 10 days turned into 10 weeks away due to border restrictions.'

'I was promised re-entry to Queensland to be with my wife who had had a heart attack. The promise was broken!'

'After being locked out of QLD for 4 months due to her (premier's) lockdown , we vaccinated once she gave a date so we could come home.'

'I got the first 2 doses as premier Mark McGowan would not let me enter Western Australia to see my son and then he didn't open the borders next thing I wasn't allowed to enter WA unless I had the mandated booster shot. I have no one here in Qld am a single mother and both my children live interstate, I got these so-called vaccines under coercion and bullying to be able to see my children.'

'I live in Qld. My 92 year old Mother is in aged care in Narrabri NSW. I knew I would never be able to visit her unless I was vaccinated. So I was forced to get the vax to see my mum.'

'At the time, my husband couldn't come home from NSW unless I had the vaccination. He had been locked out for 5 months and I was very ill and needed him home.'

'My children refused access to our grandchildren.'

'Ultimatum between divorce or keeping wife and 2 children.'

'Having an ex-partner threaten to stop visitation rights of my only child.'

'To be able to apply for a job .. as it became a must have or you would not even be considered.'

'Was really given no choice after my doctor of 10 years would no longer see me.'

'Cardiologist wouldn't see me unless I was vaccinated.'

'I am escaping a domestic violence relationship and I was afraid I would not be able to go to my court hearings.'

'I am being made to get the jab by a federal court judge, before I am able to attend court in relation to my four-year-old daughter.'