

Press Release from Clarity on Health – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### **Online survey documents vaccine coercion**

Thousands of Australians have reported they felt “extremely pressured” to be vaccinated against COVID-19, according to the results of a survey.

The anonymous online survey – the Australian Survey of Reasons for COVID-19 Vaccination – was completed by nearly 27,000 people in early 2022.

Of those, 9,861 reported having received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, according to medical media business, Clarity on Health, which designed and implemented the survey.

In a multiple-choice question testing for coercion, more than three-quarters of those vaccinated – that’s 7,559 Australians - selected the response: “I felt extremely pressured to have a COVID-19 vaccination”.

Just 8.5% reported that they had felt no pressure to have the jab.

The finding is concerning, says Clare Pain, editor of Clarity on Health, because 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”.

“These Australians are clearly reporting what they feel to be undue pressure and, in many cases, coercion”, she says.

“Of course, the underlying reason why decisions about medical treatments must never be coerced is that all medical interventions involve some risk.”

She has written an open letter to alert leading health and medical professionals in Australia including Professor John Skerritt, who leads the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), and Professor Nigel Crawford, the chair of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

In the letter she notes that the survey findings, while unlikely to be representative of all Australians, suggest that the vaccinations in these people breached the standards of medical ethics in the immunisation handbook.

“I suspect hundreds of thousands of Australians, possibly even a million or more, may have felt the same way as these survey respondents,” she adds.

You can see the open letter and detailed results of the survey on [www.clarityonhealth.org](http://www.clarityonhealth.org).

In one survey question people were asked to choose their main reason for having the vaccine from a list of 28 potential reasons.

By far the most frequent reason selected was “to keep my job”, chosen by 39.2%.

The second-most common reason was “It was mandated for my job or profession.” This was chosen by a further 18.7% of people.

The third-most common reason was “so that I would be allowed to travel within my state, interstate or overseas”, picked by 6.2%.

The first main reason for vaccination directly connected with COVID-19 disease itself appeared in fifth place, with just 3.8% of vaccinated respondents saying they had the jab primarily “to protect me from getting COVID-19”.

Almost 500 people also added their own comments, with many saying state governments or employers had been coercive.

“My employer of 27 years mandated it or would sack me with one day’s notice,” wrote one respondent.

“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,” wrote another.

While a third said: “Government coercion and unlawful mandates. NO other reason. I didn't want it. AT ALL!”

Time and again people said that, if they refused vaccination, they would not be able to put food on the table for their families, or that they would no longer be able to keep a roof over their heads.

And it was not just the vaccinated who reported pressure. At the time of the survey (18<sup>th</sup> February to 28<sup>th</sup> March), almost half (49.7%) of the nearly 17,000 respondents who remained unvaccinated reported that they were feeling extremely pressured to have the jab.

Mrs Pain said that, despite all Federal MPs and Senators and the mainstream media being asked to share the survey, it was mainly shared by people who had concerns about the vaccination campaign, and this accounted for the high proportion of unvaccinated respondents.

“In the open letter I ask the public health leaders to conduct an arms-length survey of a representative sample of the Australian population, testing for evidence of coercion,” she said.

“I feel the onus is on them to demonstrate that the campaign met the Australian Immunisation Handbook standards.”

“In my opinion, however, this survey already shows that thousands felt undue pressure, which points to the breaching of these standards of medical ethics.”

More information: [www.clarityonhealth.org](http://www.clarityonhealth.org)

### **About Clarity on Health**

Clarity on Health is an independent Australian medical media business dedicated to the provision of top-quality medical journalism. The business started in December 2021 and is currently concentrating on raising questions Australians may have about responses by governments and other organisations to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first major project in this area has been the Australian Survey of Reasons for COVID-19 Vaccination.