

Inquiry into the Government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic

Ms Orysia Ellis

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YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

Re: Inquiry into the Victorian Governments response to the COVID19 Pandemic

My concerns are as follows:

Melbourne has been the guinea pig for the longest recorded lockdown with regard to Covid19. The effects on Victorians particularly have been far worse than the virus itself, not to mention the adverse effects on all Australians in general found in this link reported in the Australian newspaper

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://amp.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/mental-health-crisis-one-million-lost-in-coronavirus-lockdown/news-story/fc8c1da341ca392166fce6aba9ca4f69&ved=2ahUKEwjasaWV2rXsAhWMXCsKHXg6DCEQFjAAegQIARAErFVj&cf=1>

This report unequivocally provides evidence that over 1 million people have contacted mental health services due to this virus. How much evidence is required to prove these lockdown measures and 5klm rule is not working.

What about businesses that have been destroyed during these lockdown measures? Many businesses will never return to reopen and those who do return have lost income that has adversely affected the way they will operate in the future. As our Prime Minister has openly discussed in his T.V, Media & Press releases, businesses have suffered immensely which has affected our economy greatly. And this will be for many years to come. Victoria particularly, under this current government, have ruined businesses irreparably with their overreach of draconian powers through tlockdowns, he Omnibus Bill, curfews and 5klm rule. These excessive measures have been responsible for the terrible stress and adverse effects we see today in over 1 million calls to mental health in Australia but a 30% increase in Victoria alone.

Personally, during this lockdown I have assisted with various persons with suicidal thoughts, depression, sickness and isolation. For example an elderly couple were planning to suicide due to all the negativity of the media, tv and government with Covid19 and the lockdown. They expressed to me how hopeless they felt and how isolated with no love and support. This came about mainly due to the over the top measures introduced to Victorians in the lockdown. Happy to say there story ended well with some loving care from good people. I am in contact with several elderly people who tell me how depressing the isolation is for them who are the most vulnerable with Covid19. Would you want your mother or grandmother treated like this,? And what about singles who live alone! They don't have immediate families to interact with so the isolation would wear them down. I believe many suicides are attributed to isolation. We have had many reports and statistics verifying these facts from various sources such as lifeline, mental health, self harm via hospitals and on it goes. We Victorians need the restrictions lifted in proportion to the lowering of Covid19:cases but this isn't happening.

Where is accountability for the hotel quarantine debacle by this current government? The source of the second wave! This Inquiry must look into making this government accountable for their mistakes and stopping the excessive measures taken on the Victorian public due to this. What about those who have lost jobs struggling with mortgage payments whilst still having to provide for their families. Yes, the Federal Government has assisted to some degree but what happens when this support comes to an end with low employment possibilities. What happens to these families then?

My recommendations are as follows:

1. Many Victorians have lost confidence in Premier Daniel Andrews and the way he handled this pandemic. This was recently brought up in debate with incumbent and the opposition leaders here in our state. Although defeated nonetheless the figures express a deep concern in the ability of this government to govern adequately in regard to Covid19 and in general.
2. The state 4 lockdown must be stopped however be eased off in proportion to the COVID19 cases. The measures implemented in Victoria are not proportionate with cases which have dropped substantially as is being experienced currently. Victorians should be rewarded for adhering to these tough measures but we're continuously punished instead. The harsh lockdown measures are not even recommended by the WHO Organisation who also don't advocate masks either. Many health organisations, doctors are saying the lockdown measures and 5klm rule must stop. The USA have over 26,000 medical & health personnel and approximately 180,000 from the public, all requesting lockdown measures to cease and we are beginning to follow suite here.
3. The 5klm rule is not conducive to the health of the community or economy of our state. The lockdown and 5klm rule has already irreparably damaged our economy however it can still get worse if we don't change course cease the 5klm rule!
4. The elderly are already contending with loneliness without the lockdown & 5klm rule which only burdens them even more. They are the most vulnerable group to Covid19 but let us keep our social distancing and testing in place without lockdown and isolation. They don't need to suffer with anymore unnecessary burdens.
5. If another outbreak occurs isolate and implement lockdown measures for that community or group to protect the rest in a proportionate way. The recommended 2 weeks and only extend this for exceptional circumstances.

Yours sincerely
Orysia Ellis

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

May this enquiry have some positive outcomes resulting from these submissions.

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Signature:
Orysia Ellis