

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

Mr Michelino Allocca

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### YOUR SUBMISSION

#### Submission:

Dear Members of the committee,

I am writing this submission to express my concern over the Andrews governments handling of the coronavirus pandemic here in Victoria and how it has affected myself personally, my friends, and my family.

We are now coming up to our 8th month of lockdown/restrictions here in Victoria with little or no hope of ever returning to normal life, I have recently been made redundant by my employer who as a direct of the governments extreme lockdowns was unable to begin any new contracts.

My partner who is currently studying at University is unable to attend vital face to face learning which is now placing Victorians at significant disadvantage when compared with other states and territories who have not been placed under such harsh restrictions.

I have personally had many nights where I struggle to find the strength to stay positive and my own mental health has been stretched to its absolute limits and yet I am forced to exhaust my last bit of strength to support my friends who are unable to gather anymore strength and are now experiencing suicidal thoughts. Speaking to the strongest grown men and women and watching them deteriorate to the point of despair and cry in public is not something I wish for anyone, yet alone those who need to be strong and support their families.

Seeing closing down signs on usually busy stores, reading social media and seeing the pressures of school children, or reading of suicides, these are not times I ever thought I would experience in my lifetime and yet the majority of this could have been avoided had it not been for the incompetence of the Andrews government and their handling of not only the hotel quarantine program, but even today with the lack of ability to contact trace.

Earlier this year, I had a close friend and his girlfriend return from overseas and asked to self quarantine at home, whilst my friends obeyed the quarantine period, at no point were his family members, who occupied the same home, asked to quarantine, yet we are constantly told how infectious and dangerous this virus is. At one point, people who were confirmed cases, were given permission to leave home to exercise, how can this be deemed safe in any possible way?

Recently, I had concerns for my own health and attended a testing site, on completion of my test, I was asked to quarantine at home and informed that I was required by law to remain there until I received my results, at no point was given any indication that my partner, who sleeps beside me each night, was to isolate.

And just today, we are told that the individual responsible for starting a further 2 outbreaks in regional Victoria was a close contact of a confirmed case and yet the government was unable to determine this nor are they capable of informing the public of exposure risk until weeks after, by which time the virus has been unsupervised in the community exposing multiple people to deadly risks.

The reality is that the people of Victoria are suffering the most extreme conditions of my lifetime at the hand of a government who are imposing them on us not out of necessity but out of a lack of capability,

The Victorian government is responsible for the second wave of coronavirus that has taken the lives of over 800 vulnerable Victorians, has risked the mental health of more than 6 million and caused economic devastation of our state, and yet we are still no closer to the reason why, because Mr Andrews is incapable of being honest.

Mr Andrews is not a leader, he is barely a man, how can a Premier possibly run his state when his main focus is standing on a podium each day spinning lies to distract from his incompetencies?

The Andrews government has made mistake after mistake, they have blamed Victorians, they been dishonest, they have failed Victorians and rather than admit their mistakes and work towards finding a real solution, they choose to punish Victorians whilst continuing to do nothing to solve the problem.

In Victoria we now losing faith in our leadership, we watch closely as other states with similar data are opening up more and more, we watch closely as other governments open their economies as we continue to close our downs.

As a lifetime Victorian, I am losing faith in my state and our ability to recover in my lifetime, I fear for the future of our children.

The Andrews government needs to be held accountable for their mistakes and errors during this crisis and as Victorians we are owed the truth, I desperately call on the installation of a royal commission into the Andrews governments handling of the Covid 19 crisis here in Victoria to ensure this type of devastation is never repeated.

I beg of you to please help restore the faith of the Victorian people and help us to find the answers as to why we have been stripped of our lives, both personally and economically.

I beg of you to help us recover before it is too late.

**Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:**

Please call for a Royal Commission

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**Signature:**  
Michelino Allocca