

I feel we should be finding the courage to make public our first hand experiences of the real impact our current unscientifically backed restrictions are having within Victoria.

I have recently become one of the many Victorians who have become jobless during Covid.

I am lucky. Until now, I had been working in health care and was well remunerated. I am also fortunate in that I am likely to manage financially for a little while, unlike many Victorians.

Unlike many Victorians though, I chose to resign two days ago, I didn't lose my job.

Over the past 7 months since our state went into lockdown, I have consulted with thousands of patients. Their access to care has been threatened. Many have lost their jobs. Many have experienced suicide and depression. Many coming into clinic have experienced side effects from constantly having to wear masks; anxiety and panic attacks, breathlessness, lethargy, fatigue, dizziness, and other skin disorders. These concerns were also voiced by many members of staff. The nursing team I worked with chose to avoid face to face patient contact where possible. This posed further challenges for those patients who needed physical contact and reassurance from their care providers. Managing patient and staff anxiety and fear has been exhausting.

I did discuss with patients, the impact these things were having for them, for their families, for all of us. Like myself, many of these patients were questioning the science and validity behind each limitation that was being imposed. Many also had concerns about new legislations which were being introduced by parliament which may facilitate further restrictions and health implications.

I have a legitimate signed mask exemption. I also wore each day in-clinic, a sticker stating I was happy to put a mask on in consult with patients, should they more comfortable for me to do so.

I also offered to do so for each patient. as I greeted them prior to consult.

On Tuesday October 13th, the clinic in which I worked as an ultrasound leader, had received their 4th anonymous complaint about the "worker who wasn't wearing a mask". I have been told by the COO, that the 4th complaint was sent to DHHS, also indicating I had stated Covid was a "hoax". I was also told by the clinic owner that DHHS has mounted an investigation into whether the clinic has been operating in a Covid safe manner.

The clinic owner has fought hard for her patients to remain open during Covid. She has followed DHHS guidelines to ensure her patients and staff are protected. I too have followed these guidelines.

Rather than risk negative publicity and attention for the clinic, for its workers, for the staff and its owner – I chose to leave. As much as I am concerned about the destructive effect our restrictions are having, I am more concerned that negative publicity may jeopardise patients choosing to, or gaining access to, this important aspect of health care.

So now I am jobless and better positioned to raise the concerns I have for what I have experienced first-hand in health care. Are you able to help me do so?

Much gratitude for your listening,



Sonographer and Registered Nurse