

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

Dr Timothy Mapperson

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YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

The government's response has been subpar in the following ways:

- Not making their modelling publicly available and open to scrutiny.
- Not making publicly available the medical data upon which all key decisions have been made.
- Not considering the breadth of consequences of their decisions, apparently focussing instead on simply COVID case numbers and deaths. Other consequences include:
 - (1) mental health decline (which is not automatically reversed once lockdown ends but can linger for months or years afterwards)
 - (2) the ongoing consequences and breakdowns from mental health decline for families and businesses, which is even more permanent than the mental problems themselves.
 - (3) the irreversible economic loss or destruction to many small businesses.
 - (4) other medical conditions not receiving due attention, leading to greater ongoing health costs for the state, for families, greater ongoing health problems, and many unnecessary deaths.
- Forming policy decisions and overall strategy based on the singular desire to bring COVID case numbers down. This overly simplistic approach has been repeatedly demonstrated to be medically and scientifically flawed. Case numbers do not equate to deaths for mortality is not uniform for all demographics. Case numbers MUST increase if the population at large is to successfully live with the virus. Imposing lockdown until case numbers reduce to such extremely low levels (5 new cases/day) ignores these pertinent facts. The government's overly simplistic approach has also not balanced other competing needs and stakeholders in the equation, nor long term needs/consequences, thus forcing a short-sighted approach onto the population. There is little doubt the government took this approach at least in part out of sheer fear that if fatalities rise uncontrollably again it will demonstrate their incompetence to lead our state, given their failed responsibility in the second wave. To prevent this, the government appears to have thrown out all other requirements and sought only to bring down case numbers, as if to save their own skin and reputation. If the government's self-focussed view can be demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt, it ought to be brought before a court of law and judged accordingly, for the cost it has forced onto so many Victorians.
- Not acknowledging (and duly considering) that there are other means of managing the threat of COVID apart from draconian city/state-wide lockdown (I refer to cases like Sweden and others).

- Not presenting Victorians with an accurate picture of the lockdown measures and its consequences. Andrews' daily press appearances routinely only cited COVID cases and deaths, as if they are all that matter. I and others called upon him to cite job losses, rent arrears, business foreclosures, medically diagnosed depressions, etc., or at least publish them. Naturally, they would reflect negatively on his lockdown measures, but Victorians have a right and desire to know what the lockdown is really costing our communities.

- Not curbing fear mongering in the media, and not presenting accurate data about the mortality of COVID for different demographics (for most people COVID is better than the flu, even better than the common cold, being worse than the flu for only a small demographic).

- Not adhering to standard procedures in the granting of \$30m to private security for quarantine arrangements.

- Not seizing opportunities for ADF support for quarantine arrangements.

- Not seizing opportunities to install appropriate contact tracing systems.

- Demonstrably not listening to many experts as to the appropriateness or unjust consequences of their decisions (e.g. medical professionals who repeatedly called for alternatives to lockdowns to be implemented much earlier than Andrews' roadmap permitted).

Many thanks for this inquiry. I, and many other Victorians, do hope that justice will be done.

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Signature:
Timothy Mapperson