

INQUIRY INTO THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

My name is Kim Jennifer Cullen of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

This is my submission regarding the Victorian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I believe that the situation in Victoria has been caused by several factors. When looking at this one needs to address the catalyst that created the other problems. This takes us back to the absolute stuff up on the handling of the initial hotel quarantine disaster where there was an outbreak of COV-19 which was brought into the country and then not effectively and terminatedly handled.

The Coates Inquiry is sufficient for me to mention here as the inquiry has looked into the reason for this debacle. It would seem the entire situation stems from a denial of our Premier Daniel Andrews to accept the offer of ADF to handle the security for the hotel quarantine. Instead a Sydney firm was employed and \$30 million was tendered and this business was not even listed on the approved listings for government contracts. Also as part of this unbelievable "botch up" more than 700 Victorians died.

Following this we saw a total refusal by Dan Andrews to take responsibility for this and blamed his health minister Jenny Mikakos who subsequently resigned refusing to be the scapegoat!

I have followed Sky News and Peta Credlin, who in her role as investigative journalist has done a brilliant job of bringing the facts to light and questioning the "missing six minutes" when that fateful decision was made.

Once again I am not an expert in this and only follow the investigative process whereby one finds an outness and pulls and tugs on the strings to uncover the truth.

I believe that the Premier and his COVID council, also referred to as "The Gang of Eight", have attempted to divert the public and cover up the lies. They all need to be investigated and called to account for their actions. It's not a matter of so and so should have done that, it's a matter of "we are the leaders we created this situation and we are responsible

for the outcomes.” This is nothing less than what is expected of the Premier and his council.

If the hotel quarantine security botch up had not occurred, then perhaps Victorians would currently be enjoying the same level of freedoms that NSW have.

The difference between Victoria and NSW is that in NSW the residents seem to be willing to be isolated and quarantined if they have been in contact with the virus, whereas in Victoria we are **all** in forced quarantine despite most of us, having shown no signs or symptoms of the infection.

This is no different to being guilty until proven innocent.

There are other issues that I believe the inquiry should address, such as the continual shifting of the goal posts with announcements made on how selfish we are for complaining & having our human rights trampled on by Dan Andrews. Never in all my years have I experienced such a travesty of human rights abuse as that which Dan Andrews has imposed on us Victorians.

The continual state of emergency, and in particular when Andrews announced he would extend the emergency for 12 months. It took persistent and continual lobbying from the populace to have this amended to 6 months, and even this was not satisfactory.

Then he introduced the Omnibus Bill. This was exposed in social media and on Sky News. I was one of the 9,000+ people who did a submission to have this stopped. Unfortunately even though we caused it to be amended it still went through. Some of the points in regard to this are in my submission.

This is when I realized our human rights had almost ceased to exist.

The compatibility statement for **Victoria’s COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2020** stated:

*It is likely that any detention would be **considered arbitrary** if it was disproportionate or unjust, or if it was not based on any identifiable criterion and was therefore able to be exercised capriciously (although there remains conflict in the Victorian jurisprudence (justice system) about the meaning of the word ‘arbitrary’).*

The amendments will allow a person to be detained under the existing emergency detention power in the PHW Act (Public Health and Wellbeing Act) on the basis of what a designated authorised officer reasonably believes a person is 'likely' to do, or to refuse or fail to do.

Fortunately we had MP Beverly McArthur who is a member of SARC alert the public and we were given 36 hours to do this. Where would we be now if this had gone through without the amendments?

I watched the fateful day in Parliament where in the lower house there was a NO CONFIDENCE vote on Dan Andrews and in the Upper House there was the discussion on the Omnibus Bill. Unfortunately the bill was passed and the No confidence Vote failed. This was a dark and dim day for Victorians.

I have NEVER been interested in politics and have trusted our elected leaders to do the right thing. However in the past 6 weeks I am now educated. No more will the wool be pulled over my eyes. No more will I vote blindly. I will ensure anyone who I vote for has the best interest of our people and our State as their first priority.

As a result of this, I have also become more involved in human rights campaigns and have helped activate others to write to the MPs, call them, put submissions into SARC on the Omnibus Bill and have also encouraged them to do a submission to this committee.

There are numerous other issues of disagreement and areas which I feel you should address. However I feel it suffices to give a brief overview of these:

- The closure and the continual lock down of our business with tens of thousands of small businesses losing their wherewithal to operate. This has decimated the economy in this state and I recently heard an interview with the Deputy PM on 3AW radio who stated that Victoria was in a \$6 billion deficit due to the pandemic and the actions of the Andrews government.
- The complete loss of freedom to travel less than in a 5km radius and being limited to being outside for one hour and then two hours ad infinitum. Once again putting us all at the whim of a decision to be made for our best interest. There is sufficient evidence from the

World Health Organization that restriction of travel and lockdowns are counter to our health and well being. There are also studies that show that isolation creates dangerous mental health issues for people who would not otherwise suffer these problems.

- The imposing of an arbitrary and potentially illegal curfew. Never before in the history of our country have we been arbitrarily placed under curfew.
- The public housing lockdown was an absolute disgrace
- The pregnant woman who was arrested in Ballarat at her home with her two small children watching because she had organized a peaceful protest on facebook for Ballarat.
- Other images we saw in the media of old people being arrested, one for having a sign "Open my Church"
- Churches and places of worship arbitrarily closed with bottleshops and supermarkets allowed to be open.
- Giving the approval for the Black Lives Matter protest in Melbourne's CBD where 10,000 protesters broke health rules without fines.
- Setting virus suppression targets that world-leading scientists say are totally impossible to attain.
- The Belt and Road fiasco (The sellout of Victoria to the Chinese Communist Government)
- Disrupting the education of all Victorian students.
- Putting people at increased risk of mental illness due to all of the above actions.

In conclusion I would like to address some of the human rights that have been abused and negated.

1. With reference to the UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:

Article # 3. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article # 9. No one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article # 10. Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

2. With reference to the (Victorian) CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006:

SECT 21 Right to liberty and security of person:

Right to liberty and security of person

- (1) Every person has the right to liberty and security.
- (2) A person must not be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention.
- (3) A person must not be deprived of his or her liberty except on grounds, and in accordance with procedures, established by law.

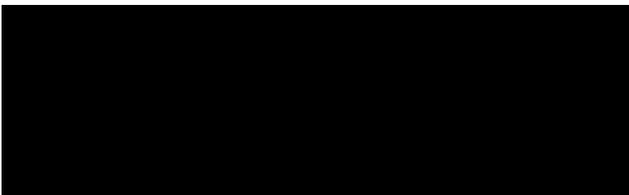
3. And with reference to the INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (which the country of Australia has subscribed to):

Article 9

1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law.

I trust that you will accept this submission in good faith. I believe the Premier of Victoria Daniel Andrews has seriously failed the Australian people in many ways and he and his "Gang of Eight" should all be removed from office and any crimes exposed should be investigated by the police, as would be the case if it was just a "normal" person.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

20/10/20