

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

Mrs Toni Steinbergs

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### YOUR SUBMISSION

#### Submission:

Dear Committee Members,

I have written dozens of letters this year consistently expressing my disgust and disappointment with the government's handling of the health crisis due to COVID-19. I have begged for unfair and unjust legislation not to be passed- but the government passed it anyway with the help of the left-leaning minor parties. I have deep concerns about the government's response to the COVID 19 Pandemic, which should not be condoned, but rather condemned as a gross-over reaction which has irreparably damaged the lives, livelihoods, and well-being of millions of Victorians. This government's decisions have done far more damage than even the disease could have if it was well-managed.

Firstly, according to world data, the pandemic only qualifies as a pandemic because the definition was changed recently to exclude the requirement for significant harm and death rates, to only have to be a disease that is affecting several countries. In Australia, less than 1000 people (27 Oct- 905 listed) had coronavirus listed as the cause of death, however, even this is inaccurate as those who died WITH coronavirus (even though they did not die of respiratory symptoms) were listed, rather than those whose death could be confirmed by a laboratory test or post-mortem that COVID was the significant cause of death. We have been subject to the hysteria of case numbers when even that data is manufactured. The PCP test was never designed to specifically detect COVID-19. Yet, even knowing how inaccurate it was, a positive test result was never then confirmed by a laboratory, as the seasonal flu is required to be before it was counted. Furthermore, a person who tested positive may never have experienced any symptoms, and for all intents and purposes, was otherwise healthy. For this, the government shut down the economy, and caused irreparable damage to lives and livelihoods.

Secondly, the March 10 Pandemic plan was NOT followed. I am an executive in charge of risk management for the school at which I am Deputy Principal. Recently we had a child fall off his bike and suffer a concussion on our bike track. When Worksafe rightly investigated, we had to produce our risk management document and prove that we had followed it to the letter as it was a legally enforceable document. Yet, the Victorian government did not follow its pandemic risk management plan. The consequence is the Hotel Quarantine fiasco which was the sole cause of the 'second wave'. The Premier is the Head of the Victorian Government and therefore the executive who must be held accountable for not following his risk management plan.

Thirdly, COVID-19 data overwhelmingly proved that the most susceptible and at-risk were the elderly and those with co-morbid conditions. These are the people who should have been protected. Not by locking down a healthy population, but by taking carefully considered risk-managed precautions to prevent the infection of the vulnerable. Any clear-thinking medical professional would tell you that you quarantine the sick, not the healthy. Yet this government caged six million Victorians because of a few thousand unreliable

positive PCP tests.

Fourthly, the Victorian government's reaction to increased positive PCP test results was to punish the entire Victorian community- even those where there were no 'cases' recorded, such as in regional Victoria. Businesses were shut down, against their constitutional rights to earn a living. According to Chapter V Section 109- any State Law is subject to the Constitution and if in breach, is invalid. Thus the emergency powers and the omnibus bill to reduce people's freedoms including freedom of speech (protesting the government's poor decisions was not permitted), freedom of movement (both within and between states), forcibly bankrupting otherwise viable businesses by closing them down and subjecting them to exorbitant fines). These rights are protected and to forcibly remove them, as I understand it, is constitutionally illegal. Yet the government did it anyway. The side effect of this is the severe economic and mental health crisis leading to increased suicides. I know of several cases of suicide caused solely by the government's decisions. Further, students were kept at home and parents asked to cope with unreasonable expectations to become the facilitators of their children's education. There was no scientific data or medical research that said that children were at risk, yet schools were shut down. Parents (those who still had a job) had to work from home, and manage student learning. Teachers train for four years to learn the intricacies of educating children, yet parents had to do it in 24 hours. The result of this was insecurity, inability to properly deliver the curriculum, and even now that all students have returned, severe mental anguish, and a rise in students suffering anxiety about coming to school again. Many students did no work at all for six months and now will suffer for years as teachers try to build up their learning progress.

As an aside, even when finally allowed to have some year levels return in the second week of Term 4, within one hour of the announcement, our Principal received a call from Union thugs threatening legal action if we dared consider allowing any extra students to return. This seemed to be a government-backed response to deter schools from acting with common sense and allowing more students to return. How else could the union have called before we had even heard the announcement in the Premier's press conference? This was clearly more government-sanctioned bullying tactics, as with the police enforcing the CHO directives. The government response to use the police force to bully, intimidate, harass, and subject law-abiding citizens to brutal arrest, fines, and belittling (such as being called tin-foil hat wearers) if they disagreed with the Premier or if they disobeyed the chief Health officer's unscientific and illegal directions. I witnessed on social media literally hundreds of people being fined, brutally arrested, and subject to intimidation for not wearing a mask, even after they had declared they had an exemption, as well as for moving outside the 5km limit, suggesting people protest against the government (even though the BLM movement was allowed to protest under the exact same restrictions), among other things.

Yes, this government should be held accountable- for the 800+ deaths they said were caused by COVID as they were directly attributable to the government's mishandling of quarantine. They should be held accountable for the thousands of businesses they closed down unnecessarily. They should be held accountable for the rise in mental health issues and resulting suicides. They should be held accountable for causing the unemployment of thousands and putting this state into an economic crisis.

I urge your committee to stop this government from doing any more damage and to prevent any future government from ever again being subjected to the unfettered and unrestrained rules on a whim like those that Premier Daniel Andrews and Professor Brett Sutton have enforced.

Kind regards,

Mrs Toni Steinbergs.

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**Signature:**

Toni Steinbergs