

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

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Postcode:

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

As a medical doctor working as a GP I have reached out to numerous organisations to offer to assist with the pandemic response.

This includes Alfred Health, Northern Health, Western Health, DHHS, Torrens Health. Every application requires multiple forms to be completed, including police checks, working with children checks, employment history and several reference checks.

The recruitment process is fragmented and convoluted. It is extremely time consuming on health practitioners - as registered practitioners currently practising without any limitations on my registration the recruitment process should be centralised and streamlined. It is not a productive use of time or resources during a pandemic to require both recruiters and practitioners to spend hours collating and rehashing the same information repeatedly. One healthcare network asked me to submit information which I spent hours collating and then advised the following day (prior to me submitting any documents) that I was no longer required!

The Health Minister Mikakos repeatedly referenced bringing doctors out of retirement to assist with the pandemic response. Given what we know about older people being far more vulnerable to COVID19 this is a poorly considered plan. At the same time much has been made about how quiet GP clinics across the country have been. Why not directly recruit doctors - young, fit doctors who are currently working - who have experienced a significant reduction in workload to assist with the pandemic response? Rather than expose older vulnerable people forced out of retirement to do so? I wrote to the state Health Minister regarding this on the 24th of March, offering to assist and flagging the large number of GPs who were available to help out and did not receive a response. Even as case numbers rise as GPs we are yet to receive any request to assist with crisis work in Victoria, and while there is frequent talk of wanting to help out most GPs do not know how to go about making an offer. This ties back to my initial point regarding the highly fragmented nature of the COVID response.

Recruitment of staff should be a centralised process. Having to complete several pages of recruitment paperwork for every employer is repetitive and tedious and ends up dissuading people from signing up to help out.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

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paperwork for every employer is repetitive and tedious and ends up dissuading people from signing up to help out.

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