

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**PETITIONS COMMITTEE**

**REPORT No. 16**

**Petitions**

**and**

**Ministerial Responses**

**19 October 2020**

## **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Chair	Mr Ken O'Dowd MP
Deputy Chair	Hon Justine Elliot MP
	Mrs Bridget Archer MP
	Ms Lisa Chesters MP
	Ms Gladys Liu MP
	Mr Julian Simmonds MP
	Mr James Stevens MP
	Ms Susan Templeman MP

**Report summarising the petitions and Ministerial responses being presented.**

**The committee met in private session on 5 August, 26 August, 2 September and 7 October 2020.**

**1. The committee resolved to present the following petitions in accordance with standing order 207:**

***Petitions certified on 5 August 2020***

From 7 petitioners – requesting that the LANTITE test be abolished **(EN1639)**

From 18 petitioners – regarding the destruction of historical Aboriginal sites **(EN1640)**

From 2 petitioners – regarding JobKeeper and the arts sector **(EN1641)**

From 21 petitioners – requesting a change to the national anthem **(EN1642)**

From 15 petitioners – regarding Indigenous deaths in custody **(EN1643)**

From 7 petitioners – regarding the mass damage and destruction of ecosystems **(EN1644)**

From 14 petitioners – regarding the Home Builder grant **(EN1648)**

From 2,367 petitioners – requesting the establishment of a federal anti-corruption body **(EN1649)**

From 4 petitioners – requesting regulation for cryptocurrency **(EN1653)**

From 34 petitioners – regarding the use of cash **(EN1655)**

From 14 petitioners –requesting for the e-petitions system to be more easily accessible for the general public **(EN1656)**

From 13 petitioners –regarding an increase to certain university fees **(EN1662)**

From 3 petitioners –requesting the ban importing nicotine vaporizing liquid be lifted **(EN1664)**

From 4 petitioners – regarding an increase to certain university fees **(EN1665)**

From 2 petitioners – requesting the ban importing nicotine vaporizing liquid be lifted **(EN1667)**

From 6 petitioners – requesting the date of Australia Day be changed **(EN1670)**

From 5 petitioners – requesting the National Anthem be changed **(EN1671)**

From 9 petitioners – requesting a Royal Commission into police conduct **(EN1672)**

From 3 petitioners – regarding medical assistance for chronic pain sufferers **(EN1673)**

From 6 petitioners – regarding the creative arts industry **(EN1674)**

From 9,336 petitioners – requesting a reform of the offshore partner visa processing system **(EN1677)**

From 5 petitioners – requesting the protection of Aboriginal culture **(EN1678)**

From 156 petitioners – requesting for the RSV Aurora Australis to be kept in Hobart **(EN1679)**

From 3 petitioners – requesting JobKeeper for casual employees in the university sector **(EN1681)**

From 5 petitioners - requesting a Royal Commission into Centrelink's Robodebt **(EN1683)**

From 3 petitioners – regarding consumer law for refunds **(EN1686)**

From 2 petitioners – requesting reform of the Royal Commission process **(EN1689)**

From 15 petitioners – regarding customer service employees **(EN1692)**

From 220 petitioners – requesting a ban on live animal exports **(EN1696)**

From 372 petitioners – regarding the citizenship test **(EN1697)**

From 512 petitioners – requesting a review of COVID-19 related travel restrictions **(EN1698)**

From 1,090 petitioners – regarding barriers to COVID-19 stimulus **(EN1699)**

From 8 petitioners – regarding the National Redress Scheme **(EN1702)**

From 5 petitioners – requesting that preference voting be abolished **(EN1703)**

From 4 petitioners – requesting a reform of Defence Force jobs to accommodate disabilities **(EN1704)**

From 10,622 petitioners – requesting a repeal of flight restrictions and paid quarantine for returning Australians **(EN1710)**

From 457 petitioners – regarding flying-fox camps **(EN1714)**

From 39 petitioners – requesting a commitment to the World Health Organisation's ACT-Accelerator **(EN1716)**

From 226 petitioners – regarding the Veterans' Review Board **(EN1717)**

From 3 petitioners – regarding religious based racism **(EN1718)**

From 21 petitioners – requesting a Royal Commission into political donations  
**(EN1719)**

From 14 petitioners – requesting the establishment of a National Centre for  
Disease Control **(EN1721)**

From 24 petitioners – requesting an increase in tax for high income earners  
**(EN1722)**

From 216 petitioners – requesting the condemnation of Armenian aggression  
against Azerbaijan **(EN1725)**

From 4 petitioners – regarding minimum welfare wage entitlements  
**(EN1727)**

From 7 petitioners – regarding Medicare discrimination against foreign  
trained doctors **(EN1728)**

From 12 petitioners – requesting for Australia to become a republic  
**(EN1729)**

From 48 petitioners – requesting exceptions for visa applicants affected by  
COVID-19 **(EN1730)**

From 113 petitioners – regarding registration requirements for LANTITE  
**(EN1731)**

From 4 petitioners – requesting that JobSeeker be provided to employers  
**(EN1732)**

From 5,008 petitioners – requesting support for Australian travel agents  
**(EN1734)**

From 195 petitioners – requesting capital punishment be reinstated for  
paedophiles **(EN1736)**

From 22 petitioners – requesting the creation of a clean jobs recovery  
**(EN1737)**

From 2 petitioners – regarding freedom of information **(EN1742)**

From 4 petitioners – requesting an amendment to the *Family Law Amendment  
(Western Australia De Facto Superannuation Splitting and Bankruptcy) Bill  
2019* **(EN1743)**

From 1,383 petitioners – requesting approval for the use of  
hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin to treat COVID-19 **(EN1745)**

***Petitions certified on 26 August 2020***

From 3 petitioners – requesting a COVID-19 vaccine taskforce be established  
**(EN1747)**

From 2 petitioners – regarding consumer rights for refunds **(EN1749)**

From 1,551 petitioners – requesting for facial feminization surgery to be covered by Medicare **(EN1750)**

From 108 petitioners – requesting that doctors be allowed to prescribe Hydroxychloroquine and other medicines to treat COVID-19 **(EN1753)**

From 8 petitioners – regarding university education **(EN1754)**

From 17 petitioners – requesting a Royal Commission into the Australian Red Cross' mismanagement of its blood supply **(EN1755)**

From 802 petitioners – requesting a review of the Australian Stock Exchange **(EN1758)**

From 2 petitioners – requesting the higher education system be reformed **(EN1763)**

From 2 petitioners – requesting an investigation into the practices of judicial officers **(EN1764)**

From 149 petitioners – requesting certain visa holders be allowed to return to Australia **(EN1765)**

From 37 petitioners – regarding the JobSeeker allowance **(EN1766)**

From 10,265 petitioners – requesting section 48 of the *Migration Act 1958* be waived **(EN1767)**

From 5 petitioners – requesting the creation of a National Judicial Complaints Commission **(EN1768)**

From 2 petitioners – requesting JobKeeper be extended to all permanent residents **(EN1769)**

From 32 petitioners – requesting action regarding the Lebanese Government **(EN1770)**

From 65 petitioners – requesting that access to Hydrene medication to treat Meniere’s disease be continued **(EN1771)**

From 10 petitioners – regarding partner visas **(EN1775)**

From 144 petitioners – requesting a review of the COVID-19 international travel ban **(EN1779)**

From 12 petitioners – requesting a review of the COVID-19 international travel ban **(EN1780)**

From 311 petitioners – requesting for the processing of Prospective Marriage Visas (subclass 300) be continued during COVID-19 **(EN1781)**

From 6 petitioners – regarding judicial appointments **(EN1782)**

From 11 petitioners – requesting a ban on plastic cotton buds **(EN1783)**

From 7 petitioners – regarding loans for people with a disability **(EN1784)**

From 105 petitioners – requesting legislation to ensure charities are more accountable **(EN1786)**

From 89 petitioners – regarding international travel during COVID-19 **(EN1787)**

From 5 petitioners – regarding commercial loans and home loan deposits **(EN1789)**

From 32 petitioners – requesting a ban on advertisements that promote gambling **(EN1791)**

From 20 petitioners – requesting a referendum to vote for Australia to become a republic **(EN1792)**

From 14,799 petitioners – requesting an extension for Temporary Graduate Visas **(EN1793)**

From 13 petitioners – requesting an increase to the number of psychology sessions available under the Mental Health Care Plan **(EN1794)**

From 20 petitioners – regarding the news media bargaining code **(EN1795)**

From 527 petitioners – requesting for names on all family and domestic violence court attendance records to be redacted **(EN1796)**

From 34 petitioners – requesting the creation of a new renewable energy mass jobs scheme **(EN1797)**

From 74 petitioners – regarding the news media bargaining code **(EN1798)**

From 30,604 petitioners – regarding a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination **(EN1801)**

From 26 petitioners – requesting that a plebiscite or a referendum be included in every federal election **(EN1802)**

From 296 petitioners – regarding a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination **(EN1803)**

From 342 petitioners – regarding a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination **(EN1804)**

From 118 petitioners – requesting the Coronavirus supplement for JobSeeker and JobKeeper be extended **(EN1805)**

From 46 petitioners – requesting a ban on unpaid internships **(EN1806)**

From 3,504 petitioners – regarding a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination **(EN1807)**

***Petitions certified on 2 September 2020***

From 61 petitioners – requesting the removal of the requirement for an exemption to depart Australia **(EN1810)**

From 144 petitioners – requesting that the Foreign Minister meet with foreign equivalents to form an immigration alliance with the UK, Canada and New Zealand **(EN1811)**

From 4 petitioners – requesting additional support for people with a disability **(EN1812)**

From 10 petitioners – requesting for the legislated superannuation increase to 12 per cent be kept **(EN1813)**

From 24 petitioners – requesting protection for copyright of the Aboriginal Flag **(EN1814)**

From 23 petitioners – requesting a state of climate change emergency be declared **(EN1815)**

From 12 petitioners – requesting mortgage laws be reformed for people with disabilities **(EN1817)**

From 1,260 petitioners – requesting for major supermarkets to be made accountable for unnecessary plastic waste **(EN1818)**

From 390 petitioners – requesting for hydroxychloroquine to be made available over the counter for the treatment of COVID-19 **(EN1819)**

From 54 petitioners – regarding the state of emergency and vaccines for COVID-19 **(EN1820)**

From 138 petitioners – regarding the state of emergency and vaccines for COVID-19 **(EN1821)**

From 75 petitioners – regarding the *Migration Amendment (Hong Kong Passport Holders) Regulations 2020* **(EN1822)**

From 643 petitioners – requesting action to save the Perth Airport banksia woodlands, wetlands and Aboriginal heritage sites **(EN1823)**

From 224 petitioners – requesting assistance to help pets of families stranded overseas to return home **(EN1824)**

From 2 petitioners – requesting compulsory retirement be broadened to include all occupations **(EN1825)**

From 15 petitioners – regarding the Disability Support Pension (Blind) **(EN1826)**

From 83 petitioners – requesting for cannabis to be decriminalised and regulated for recreational use **(EN1827)**

From 22 petitioners – requesting an extension for the Prospective Marriage and Partner Visa **(EN1829)**

From 114 petitioners – regarding international students returning to Australia **(EN1834)**

From 503 petitioners – requesting for dental treatments to be added to Medicare **(EN1835)**

From 4,358 petitioners – regarding mandatory vaccines for COVID-19 **(EN1837)**

***Petition certified on 7 October 2020***

From 7 petitioners – regarding Indigenous incarceration and deaths in custody **(PN0485)**

**The following ministerial responses to petitions were received:**

***Ministerial responses considered on 2 September 2020***

From the Minister for International Development and the Pacific – to a petition requesting the suspension of foreign aid **(EN1268)**

From the Assistant Minister for Superannuation, Financial Services and Financial Technology – to a petition regarding the suspension of rent, mortgage and credit card payments during COVID-19 **(EN1417)**

From the Minister for Families and Social Services – to a petition regarding support for temporary visa holders during COVID-19 **(EN1434)**

From the Minister for Families and Social Services – to a petition regarding support for temporary visa holders during COVID-19 **(EN1439)**

From the Minister for Families and Social Services – to a petition regarding JobSeeker payments **(EN1440)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts – to a petition regarding the 5G network **(EN1487)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts – to a petition regarding the 5G network **(EN1490)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts – to a petition regarding the 5G network **(EN1492)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts – to a petition regarding the 5G network **(EN1493)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts – to a petition regarding the 5G network **(EN1504)**

***Ministerial responses considered on 7 October 2020***

From the Minister for Health – to a petition regarding psychotropic drugs and electric shock treatment on children **(EN1212)**

From the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet – to a petition regarding the invitation of Mr Brian Houston to the White House **(EN1244)**

From the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet – to a petition requesting a Royal Commission into the 2019-20 bushfires **(EN1247)**

From the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction – to a petition regarding action on climate change **(EN1248)**

From the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet – to a petition requesting that recommendations of the *Final Report of the Referendum Council* be implemented **(EN1308)**

From the Assistant Treasurer – to a petition requesting removal of the luxury car tax on battery electric vehicles **(EN1340)**

From the Assistant Treasurer – to a petition requesting removal of the luxury car tax on zero emission cars **(EN1342)**

From the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet – to a petition regarding Newstart Allowance and substance testing for Members of Parliament **(EN1348)**

From the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet – to a petition regarding changing the national bird of Australia **(EN1355)**

From the Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs – to a petition requesting a decrease in Visa 887 processing times **(EN1378)**

From the Assistant Treasurer – to a petition regarding taxes on electric vehicles **(EN1381)**

From the Minister for Families and Social Services – to a petition regarding female violence against children **(EN1427)**

From the Assistant Treasurer – to a petition requesting financial assistance for the hospitality sector **(EN1431)**

From the Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs – to a petition regarding taxation on visa holders **(EN1438)**

From the Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs – to a petition regarding visa processing times **(EN1448)**

From the Assistant Minister for Superannuation, Financial Services and Financial Technology – to a petition regarding credit card interest rates **(EN1453)**

From the Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs – to a petition regarding reciprocal immigration arrangements with New Zealand **(EN1454)**

From the Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs – to a petition regarding visas during COVID-19 **(EN1460)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts – to a petition requesting the repeal of Section 115a of the *Copyright Act 1968* **(EN1468)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition regarding sunset clauses on the emergency COVID-19 powers **(EN1477)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition requesting a freeze on funding to the World Health Organisation **(EN1500)**

From the Minister for Education – to a petition regarding education **(EN1501)**

From the Minister for Health– to a petition regarding World Health Organisation funding **(EN1503)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts – to a petition requesting a ban on credit cards for online gambling websites **(EN1507)**

From the Assistant Prime Minister – to a petition requesting COVID-19 awards for public sector workers **(EN1516)**

From the Minister for Foreign Affairs – to a petition requesting an independent inquiry into COVID-19 **(EN1525)**

From the Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians – to a petition regarding mandatory vaccinations for visitors to aged care facilities **(EN1563)**

From the Assistant Treasurer – to a petition regarding the Medicare levy **(EN1587)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition regarding environmental impact food labelling **(EN1589)**

From the Minister for Foreign Affairs – to a petition regarding the *Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary Treaty* **(EN1599)**

From the Assistant Treasurer – to a petition regarding JobKeeper payments for employees in the arts and entertainment sectors **(EN1609)**

From the Minister for Education – to a petition regarding ideological diversity in universities **(EN1611)**

From the Minister for Home Affairs – to a petition regarding international travel restrictions due to COVID-19 **(EN1618)**

From the Minister for Indigenous Australians – to a petition requesting an inquiry into First Nations women in custody **(EN1619)**

From the Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters – to a petition regarding financial accountability for large charities **(EN1623)**

From the Minister for Home Affairs – to a petition regarding offshore detention practices **(PN0445)**

**Mr Ken O’Dowd**

**Chair – Petitions Committee**