

To: [Committee, Health \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: Form Submission - Inquiry into Long Covid and Repeated Infection Submission
Date: Wednesday, 19 October 2022 10:08:12 PM

Name: Michael Williams

What is your experience of being a patient in Australia of long COVID and/or repeated COVID infections, particularly regarding diagnosis and treatment?: My experience is that I received long covid from the covid vaccine. I was repeatedly told to get the vaccine to be safe and so I did. At first diagnosis was awkward because people were expected to have some symptoms from the vaccines, but when mine were more severe and lasted way longer than other people that caught actual covid even pre-vaccine that's when doctors really started to pay attention to it. Just trying to get doctors appointments is difficult because all medical places have checks asking if you have covid symptoms, and even when they know its from the vaccine so can't be transmitted they still tell you to make a later appointment even when the reason I'm there is to get my covid symptoms looked at. Treatment hasn't really been anything aside from being told "there's nothing we can do", or "it just takes some time to get better". Yet 7.5 months later I still feel awful daily.

What have the health, social, educational and economic impacts been for you, in relation to long COVID or repeated infection? Has there been an impact on your family or community?: Health-wise the impacts have been catastrophic to me. My first jab I got sick for 10 days total, my second jab lasted 22 days, and my third jab has been 232 days and is still ongoing. My symptoms have been:
Headaches that last for weeks on end, (making it incredibly difficult to remain positive or concentrate on anything).
Migraines that hit like a truck
Constant exhaustion (some days I can stay up for a close to normal amount of time and other days I get up for 1-3 hours and then I'm so exhausted I have to sleep for another 12-26 hours. It's incredibly difficult to be motivated to do anything, be it for my own entertainment, to be there for family or friends, or even go out to doctors appointments).
Fevers (feeling hot, cold, and horrible).
Feeling sick and dizzy (often feeling like throwing up but being unable to, having a lot of dizzy spells making me worried about moving around).
Muscle and body aches/soreness (making just sitting still feel like I've done the biggest gym workout ever done).
Cold symptoms (Sore throat, sounding like I have a cold).
My mental health has taken a massive hit, because being told that "nothing can be done" or "we don't know how long it will last" doesn't fill you with confidence when you already feel awful and people around you expect you to soldier on as if you feel great. For most people having a vaccine makes them feel safer when it comes to the virus, but for me all it did was give me awful symptoms that make me think "if I get wrecked by the vaccine, I'll probably die from ACTUAL covid."

Socially the impacts have been that I can't reliably hang out with friends, I can't even do a lot of things that I want to do. There's also a lot of times family has needed help with

something and I haven't been able to help when it would normally not be a problem. I feel like I'm letting people down and it's not even my fault.

Economically the impacts have been bad too, I'm quite lucky that I don't have a job because they probably would have fired me 10 times by now, but having to spend quite a lot of money on doctors and various specialists trying to understand what is happening to my body and how to fix it isn't nice, especially when the only reason I'm sick is because I followed the rules and got vaccinated.

What specific actions would you like to be taken in relation to Long Covid and Repeated infection, that would positively impact the situations you have outlined above? : Things I think would be better for the world is if there was 1 vaccine for covid and it FULLY protected against covid. Instead of having 3+ vaccines per person and you can still catch covid multiple times so it doesn't make you immune. It would be nice if there were protocols to deal with helping someone who wants to get their covid symptoms looked at instead of constantly telling them to wait until it wears off and get back to them (some of us it doesn't seem to wear off). It would be amazing if there was more knowledge about covid/long covid/covid vaccines so that the best medical support I can get wouldn't just say "just keep waiting, it might one day wear off and get better".

I would like the Inquiry to contact me to discuss privacy and confidentiality options for my submission: No