

TO: PARLIAMENT AUSTRALIA

SUBJECT: INQUIRY INTO LONG COVID

DATE: 9/11/2022

CC:

In relation to the above inquiry, I would like to make the following submission.

My personal experience of the Long Covid people are experiencing is based on a collection of events that I have either been witness to or have had firsthand information from my immediate family members. These stories can be validated, are true and accurate in their depiction of and the linkage to the ongoing Long Covid symptoms they are experiencing.

Firstly, my close friend – we have been close mates for over 40 years now - has taken both vaccine shots and is fit and healthy but after his second shot he constantly complains about being exhausted. He requires sleep all day on some weekends and simply cannot keep up with the activity levels that he was able to do prior to taking his first Pfizer vaccine. He has never been ill in the time I have known him and the discussions we have had have clearly led to the conclusion that his cloudy mind and tiredness must be linked to Long Covid.

Secondly, another close friend was required to have his 15yo son take first Pfizer vaccine in order to play football. His son was fit healthy aspiring footballer. He has no prior history of health issues and was on the way to a potential AFL career. He was taken to hospital after his first Pfizer vaccine with breathing difficulties and placed on an ECG monitor and then was diagnosed with heart swelling by the doctor on call that day. He was given anti inflammatory prescription and told to monitor for any symptoms. Several months later he is still having breathing difficulties and has been told he may have Long Covid.

Finally, I was at an Armadale Doctors surgery when the vaccine rollout was successful and at just over 70% in Victoria under the daily reporting by Dan Andrews. In this surgery, I met a lady who was with her son, he was 21 and looked terrible. His mother explained her son had Myocarditis. The mother said her son was a healthy, fit and energetic boy and his new heart issues were of great concern. The mother had taken him to Hospital and the doctor prescribed anti-inflammatory prescription drugs and said it should go away after 9 days. It was 14 days and still the young man had heart pain so the mother went back to hospital and again the doctor advised it must be a Covid side effect. So, after advice from friends, the mother decided to take her son to a Private Cardiology practice in Malvern. After her consultation ended, the mother told me that the Cardiologist she saw had gently grabbed her forearm and said “I don’t know what’s going on but your son must be the 50th young man, all between 20-30 years of age that have been in this practice in the last 30 days alone – and all complained of heart issues.”

The conclusion I have drawn from the above is that there is a great deal of confusion around Long Covid. The only way to resolve this confusion and to rule out the Vaccine was the cause of Long Covid is to have a very clear research analysis of:

1. Fully Vaccinated – documented health issues, symptoms and trends BOTH ‘prior’ and ‘post’ Covid 19 vaccination
2. Partially Vaccinated - documented health issues, symptoms and trends BOTH ‘prior’ and ‘post’ Covid 19 vaccination
3. Unvaccinated - documented health issues, symptoms and trends BOTH ‘prior’ and ‘post’ Covid 19 vaccination.

There cannot be a true understanding of Long Covid unless we have a detailed set of comparable data points that allow comparison of Long Covid across Fully Vaccinated, Partially Vaccinated and Not Vaccinated cluster groups. For example, we need a trend showing the Victorian Ambulance calls made each month for the past 12 months and documenting “what symptoms” patients were experiencing that led them to call for an ambulance.

If this review on Long Covid is not comprehensive to include ALL relevant contributors to Long Covid my fear is this will drag on for years and society – particularly young people – will suffer dearly as the confusion of what cause Long Covid continues to impact society from returning to some sort of normal.