

To: [Committee, Health \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: Submission for Inquiry
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I'd like to submit my story for the Inquiry.

As a healthcare worker I received my vaccine in the 1B rollout. I was vaccinated March 29th 2021, at this point Pfizer was not an option in my area and AstraZeneca had no age limit. I had AZ at 5pm following my shift at work and went home, having had the flu vaccine every year I wasn't concerned about getting this one. I woke up the next morning at 2am with a temperature, achy, and flu like symptoms, I'd expected this so took some Panadol and called in sick that day thinking I'd be back at work the following day. This continued for three days and on day three I began experiencing back pain and vomiting, I couldn't keep anything down but as the sheet I was given said that nausea and vomiting were a known side effect I wasn't overly concerned. I hydrated, took Panadol, and rested. By day 5 my symptoms hadn't improved, this happened to fall on Easter Saturday when I was due to see my family. They came and picked me up as they were concerned that I was still sick and wanted to bring me back to their house. After a night of no sleep and constant vomiting I went to my local urgent care centre for fluids wanting to make sure I was hydrated and make sure that it was nothing serious. They requested a urine sample, when I wasn't able to provide one they became concerned and sent me to the Hospital to get bloods taken (being a public holiday and a small hospital the UCC couldn't run bloods). When I arrived I was rushed back as they were concerned that the side effects were following AZ and were worried about a possible clot. Because I wasn't able to provide a urine sample they pulled out an ultrasound machine to check my kidneys and added more tests to the bloods they'd taken.

The tests were put through as urgent and within the hour a doctor came into the room to tell me that I was being admitted as I was in kidney and liver failure. I was very spaced out and struggling to understand what was being said by this point, which I later found out was because of the build up of toxins in my body because of the organ failure. They explained that in a healthy liver ALT liver should be above 30 and mine had come back at above 3900, healthy kidney function would record GFR levels as above 90 and mine were just 4.

I was taken to admissions where a catheter was placed, confirming that my body had stopped producing urine, and specialists were called down to see me. The doctor was incredibly calm through it all, explaining what was happening, how long I could expect to be in, and what where I would go from here. My mum, who was with me, was warned that it wasn't looking good and I may not make it. She was told that if I had waited another day to come in I wouldn't have survived. I have never felt so horrific in my life as I did that day, my blood sugars and ketones were dangerously low and the trauma of laying there unable to ask for help as I felt myself dying will probably never fully go away. I was incredibly lucky with the efficiency of the doctors and nurses who didn't take any chances and made sure that I got the best care.

I was admitted to the ICU where I had tubes placed in my neck and was placed in CRRT (chronic renal replacement therapy) for 19 hours to try and flush out the toxins that had built up in my body. There was a lot of other things that occurred between me entering emergency and the admission to ICU, but I am not able to remember a lot of what occurred.

As the CRRT was happening I had an arterial line placed, it took four attempts to place it as my arteries were so narrow and hard to access. After three days in the ICU I was taken for scans and tests as there were concerns that I had a clot, due to elevated d-dimer levels, however as I'd been on clexane injections for three days any clot I may have had would have dissolved in this time and scans were clear (without evidence of a clot I am now considered ineligible for the compensation scheme and have been left stranded by the government). I had doctors in and out over the week I was in ICU asking for more tests and trying to explain what was happening, why things were being done, and what they'd show. Every doctor I saw explained that they had to run the tests to rule out the jab as the cause because when they made the report to TGA they would ask for the tests to be run to rule out the vaccine as the cause. All of the tests came back showing that I was in perfect health EXCEPT of course the organ failure and elevated d-dimer levels. One doctor was completely honest with me and stated that the report to TGA ruling it a vaccine injury would take time as doctors were scared to lose their licenses, in the end I was told my medical team all got together and submitted the report as a group. What followed was a month of traumatic intervention to save my kidneys and liver, and my life in the ICU and renal ward.

Through all of this I ended up with severe hearing loss in my left ear, a side effect of AZ that others have reported, and whilst I can manage most days I do have hearing aids for when I'm in busier environments and manage to hear what people are saying to me. I hate wearing them though as the noise becomes overwhelming (my ability to manage sensory input has drastically diminished, something I'm told isn't uncommon post a medical trauma like this) and I can't cope.

Following the vaccine I also developed chronic conditions that became apparent once I was home and tried to return to my life. I've been diagnosed with fibromyalgia, dysautonomia, and mast cell activation syndrome (MCAS), they had me in and out of hospital looking for answers and have led to further admissions. I end up tachycardic everyday, on a good day it doesn't go above 155 and on a bad day it can hit 200. I'm constantly dizzy, off balance, nauseous, chronically fatigued, struggling with incontinence, and having chest pains has become a daily occurrence. There have been multiple episodes where my body couldn't tolerate the heart rate and I've fainted. The MCAS had me reacting everyday to my cats, foods, and allergens would set me off. It's only in the last year since starting multiple medications and Xolair injections that the symptoms have come under some control and I feel like I'm not spending my days waiting for a severe reaction to occur. Before starting the xolair injections, I had an allergic reaction to the paste used for an EEG and it caused clumps of my hair to fall out where my skin blistered and developed welts. Because of the dysautonomia my balance is now incredibly poor and I often fall. My immune system is not the same as it once was and I've ended up developing infections and struggled to manage my health since, on top of my overactive mast cell response causing regular allergic reactions and anaphylactic symptoms. As a result of POTS (and suspected nerve damage from hyperkalemia in the hospital) the right side of my body is significantly weaker, my right leg often loses colour, gets pins and needles, and my ankle will roll and foot will drag as I can't lift my leg high enough. My left leg has the same concerns but at less intensity than the right, I now have to AFOs to keep my feet in the correct position and prevent me falling and tripping. I use crutches, a walker, and a wheelchair to get around to assist with my balance, vertigo, POTS, and fibromyalgia. Depending on the day and what I'm doing I alternate the mobility aids that I need to use.

And of course all of this has taken a huge toll on my overall health, I've gained weight as I can't exercise like I used to and struggle to manage simple tasks like preparing meals for myself and maintaining my house, I've been diagnosed with C-PTSD related to medical trauma and in relation to the magnitude of change I've had within such a short period of time, I have anxiety and panic attacks regularly, and I'm struggling to manage day to day. I'm fortunate that my family and friends have been incredible through this.

I think most Australians would be genuinely shocked that people, like me, who have had serious vaccine injuries or have lost family members are not being looked after. All of us would have taken the vaccine in good faith that it would help to keep the community safe and that we wouldn't be left stranded if something was to happen. To not even be eligible for the compensation scheme, despite my doctor submitting a letter, the forms, and all my supporting evidence, is not acceptable. I'm left with no support from the government to get my life back together and I have no idea what my future looks like, health wise or financially, now that I'm unable to work full time and with little understanding of vaccine injuries in adults.

Thank you,