

Question on notice no. 59

Portfolio question number: SQ23-004809

2023-24 Supplementary Budget estimates

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Portfolio**

Senator Malcolm Roberts: asked the Civil Aviation Safety Authority on 23 October 2023—

Senator ROBERTS: In a February 2022 Zoom meeting with Virgin pilots, Dr Manderson, you stated that the provisionally approved mRNA vaccines or injections can cause myocarditis and pericarditis, but that you'd rather pilots got these conditions from the vaccine rather than COVID, which you claimed to be a higher risk. What evidence do you have to substantiate that claim that the risk of myocarditis is higher from COVID infection?

Dr Manderson: There's extensive medical literature and evidence in peer reviewed-

Senator ROBERTS: Can you give me the references, please-titles, authors, publications.

Dr Manderson: Not immediately, but-

Ms Spence: We can take that on notice.

Senator ROBERTS: On notice. Thank you. [...] Senator ROBERTS: Can I point you to a study entitled 'COVID-19-Associated cardiac pathology at the postmortem evaluation: a collaborative systematic review', published in the Clinical Microbiology and Infection journal, 23 March 2022, which concludes that there was no increased myocarditis as a result of COVID infection. Can you please take on notice to provide what evidence or studies you have that refute a systematic review like that?

Dr Manderson: Sure.

Answer —

Please find answer attached

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2023 - 2024

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Committee Question Number: 59

Departmental Question Number: SQ23-004809

Division/Agency Name: Agency - Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 138 (23 October 2023)

Topic: CASA - Evidence of higher risk of myocarditis from COVID infection

Senator Malcolm Roberts asked:

Senator ROBERTS: In a February 2022 Zoom meeting with Virgin pilots, Dr Manderson, you stated that the provisionally approved mRNA vaccines or injections can cause myocarditis and pericarditis, but that you'd rather pilots got these conditions from the vaccine rather than COVID, which you claimed to be a higher risk. What evidence do you have to substantiate that claim that the risk of myocarditis is higher from COVID infection?

Dr Manderson: There's extensive medical literature and evidence in peer reviewed—

Senator ROBERTS: Can you give me the references, please—titles, authors, publications.

Dr Manderson: Not immediately, but—

Ms Spence: We can take that on notice.

Senator ROBERTS: On notice. Thank you.

[...]

Senator ROBERTS: Can I point you to a study entitled 'COVID-19—Associated cardiac pathology at the postmortem evaluation: a collaborative systematic review', published in the Clinical Microbiology and Infection journal, 23 March 2022, which concludes that there was no increased myocarditis as a result of COVID infection. Can you please take on notice to provide what evidence or studies you have that refute a systematic review like that?

Dr Manderson: Sure.

Answer:

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) is not responsible for determining the safety or efficacy of vaccines and medicine.

The Department of Health and Aged Care via the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) set the guidelines and standards for vaccine safety. CASA's position is influenced by these guidelines.

The following was provided by the TGA :

Published data demonstrate that both the incidence and severity of myocarditis is much lower after vaccination compared to COVID-19 infection.

1. Husby, Anders, et al. "Clinical outcomes of myocarditis after SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccination in four Nordic countries: population-based cohort study." *BMJ medicine* 2.1 (2023).

2. Patone, Martina, et al. "Risk of myocarditis after sequential doses of COVID-19 vaccine and SARS-CoV-2 infection by age and sex." *Circulation* 146.10 (2022): 743-754.