Dear [MP Name],

I am writing to express my deep dismay regarding the Government’s decision to close the COVID-19 Vaccine Claims Scheme on 30 September 2024. I believe this decision is premature and neglects the needs of Australians who have suffered vaccine-induced harms. My [family member/friend] has suffered a vaccine injury as a result of their COVID-19 vaccine and I have seen firsthand how devastating such an event can be physically, emotionally and financially.

During a recent Senate Estimates session, it was revealed by Services Australia that, as of 31 March 2024, 91% of finalised applications to the Scheme have been unsuccessful. This is despite many of these applications being supported by medical evidence that substantiates claims of COVID-19 vaccine-induced injuries. Additionally, there have been reports of claimants waiting over 455 days for a determination on their applications. These two facts alone highlight that the Scheme is not meeting its intended purpose. Rather than providing a “simple and quick administrative process for compensation,” it appears punitive in nature, failing to meet the reasonable expectations of the Australian public.

Moreover, the Scheme does not provide coverage for all harms caused by the COVID-19 vaccines. This exclusionary approach leaves many Australians without any recourse or support. Given that the vaccines are still being administered, it is only fair and ethical that those who suffer any adverse effects are adequately covered by a compensation scheme.

I strongly urge you to advocate for extending the closure date of the Vaccine Claims Scheme beyond 30 September 2024. The Scheme should remain open for as long as COVID-19 vaccines are available and administered in Australia. Furthermore, it is unethical to discontinue the Scheme while there are unresolved issues and pending claims from individuals who are already vaccine-injured.

The Government has a responsibility to support and compensate those who have suffered as a result of following public health advice. I hope you will consider the points I have raised and advocate for a fair and just approach for all Australians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,  
[Your name]