

[your address]

[date]

[MP's name & address]

I am writing to you today to bring light to an urgent issue affecting many Australians, including myself.

[Insert two short sentences outlining your age, gender, previous employment and/or family situation, previous health and fitness status.]

Like the majority of Australians, I responded to government calls to be vaccinated. I did this because [complete the sentence with the main reason why you took the vaccine, eg:

- I accepted the government messages about the vaccine being safe.
- I wanted to be able to return to work and for my kids to go back to school.
- I was mandated and so had to be vaccinated if I was going to keep my job.]

I received [1,2,3...] injections of the [Pfizer / Moderna / AstraZeneca / Novovax] vaccine on [date/s].

I started experiencing an adverse reaction to the vaccine [number of minutes, hours, days] after receiving my [1st, 2nd, 3rd...] vaccination. At that time my main symptoms were [list top 4 main symptoms].

[Insert one short sentence outlining what medical intervention you sought. e.g.:

- I was taken by ambulance to hospital.
- I saw my GP.
- I had 4 trips to the emergency department.]

[Insert one to two short sentences outlining how the medical system responded, including any diagnosis, even if there was none, e.g.:

- The tests could not find anything and I was sent home.
- The doctors admitted I was having a reaction to the vaccine but could not explain what was wrong with me.
- I was diagnosed with pericarditis.]

[number] months on, I am still experiencing the life altering impact of my adverse reaction to the vaccine. Each day my symptoms include [3 main current symptoms].

[Insert one or two points about how this has impacted on your daily functioning and work, e.g.:

- I have been unable to look after my children or undertake my work.
- I have only been able to work very reduced hours.
- I have been unable to exercise, work or socialise.]

This has created severe financial, emotional and physical stress for me [and my family / partner / those that care for me].

[I reported/my doctor reported/the hospital reported] my adverse reaction to the TGA [or insert state vaccine safety system] on [date]. [Add one sentence outlining any response you received ,or if you did not receive a response.]

I have applied for compensation through the Covid-19 Vaccine Claims Scheme. My experience of this has been both exhausting and extremely disappointing because [insert a sentence outlining the difficulties and obstacles with the scheme, e.g.:

- I have been continually required to answer further questions and obtain additional medical tests for Services Australia.
- I was told I was not eligible because I did not have the correct medical information.
- The amount of money I have been offered will go no way to covering the expenses I have incurred, or will incur into the future.]

OR

I have not applied for compensation through the Covid-19 Vaccine Claims Scheme because [Insert one sentence outlining why you have not applied, e.g.:

- I am ineligible because I do not have a diagnosis that fits the limited criteria.
- Even though I have been too sick to work for 15 months, I was not hospitalised.
- The scope of the scheme is so limited in its financial response it has no way of being able to cover the expenses I have had and will have into the future.]

Perhaps the most harmful experience of all, has been the way I have been treated because I had a severe adverse reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine. The media, medical and government systems continue to ignore or deny my existence. I have felt ashamed to openly discuss what has happened to me. I have been labelled an “anti-vaxxer”. I have been dismissed as being a hypochondriac or as having anxiety. [Delete any that do not apply to you and/or add something that has been missed.]

I, along with the other vaccine injured Australians represented by COVERSE (coverse.org.au), request the following actions from you, as my elected federal government representative: [add or delete any additional items according to your circumstances]

- Acknowledge that for some Australians, the COVID-19 vaccines did considerable harm, and commit to taking all steps necessary to support those affected.
- Support the development of comprehensive medical guidelines for Australian GPs and specialists for treating vaccine injury symptoms, co-created with vaccine-injured representatives to ensure relevancy and breadth.
- Task at least one pharmacovigilance organisation with *proactively* monitoring the ongoing outcomes of all vaccine-injured Australians.
- Fund Government research as to why COVID-19 vaccine injury occurs in certain individuals.
- Fund Government research on treatment options to resolve severe debilitating injuries that need not be permanent.
- Redesign the Government’s compensation scheme to:

- Reflect the vast array of chronic and severe adverse events instead of the seven (7) that are currently recognised.
- Correct the eligibility criteria to reflect that a significant number of impacted patients were never admitted to hospital.
- Correct the eligibility criteria so that vaccine-injured children and/or their parents are able to receive appropriate compensation.
- Correct the eligibility criteria that require patients to be able to demonstrate current/future losses of at least \$1,000. This is prejudicial to low-income and unemployed people who rely solely on public health support yet still deserve compensation for the same amount of pain and suffering endured by themselves and their families.
- Acknowledge the plight of Australians developing severe chronic conditions as their symptoms remain untreated for extended periods of time.
- Acknowledge that treatment is experimental and high cost which skews recovery towards only those with the financial resources to fund upfront costs.
- Establish tailored Government financial assistance that is ongoing. As COVID-19 vaccine injuries are an unprecedented phenomenon many Government programs do not recognise the long duration of disability such injuries have created, which may be permanent in individual cases.

To enable you to further understand the extent of this problem in Australia, here are some further links provided by COVERSE:

- Vaccine injury submissions to Parliament's *Inquiry into Long Covid and Repeated Covid Infections*: coverse.org.au/long-covid-inquiry
- COVERSE letter to all federal politicians: coverse.org.au/2023/02/letter-to-politicians
- Video presentation by COVERSE directors: youtu.be/LeAuCC6SWg0
- COVERSE video for International Women's Day 2023: youtu.be/s1sezGMDG5c

I am also available to meet with you to further discuss this issue.

I look forward to hearing from you with details on what action you have taken, or are planning to take, to address these issues as my elected representative.

Yours sincerely,

[your signature]

[print your name]