



COVERSE response to questions on notice in the Senate inquiry into Excess Mortality

Questions from Senator Malcolm Roberts

1. Can you expand on your evidence regarding the suppression, I would call it intimidation, of medical professionals to limit the way in which they reported adverse outcomes from COVID “vaccine” and other health measures?

We cannot have accurate robust data collection for patients within a medical regime where doctors work under fear of deregistration for acknowledging adverse events. Some medical professionals have spoken publicly about this very real fear. In an open letter to all federal and state health ministers, dated 14 July 2022, a group of concerned doctors and scientists wrote about the growing overreach of Ahpra. This letter has since received nearly 2,000 additional signatories. In this letter they wrote:¹

“Australia must not be a country where reputable scientists and clinicians cannot speak for the public good because they fear reprisal from their government regulator.”

The signatories called for a “statement affirming freedom of speech for doctors, in the public interest, and confirmation that expressing a difference of opinion with government policy does not in itself constitute a breach of Ahpra’s Good Medical Practice Code.” The West Australian reported on this letter on 8 January 2023, including examples from doctors with differing opinions on the COVID vaccines.²

Further, in her recent autobiography, Dr Kerryn Phelps wrote about how the expanding regulatory role of Ahpra impacted the way in which doctors felt they were able to report adverse outcomes from COVID vaccines:

“doctors were reluctant to speak about this because they felt intimidated by the medical regulator, Ahpra. I say ‘reluctant’, but some doctors used the word ‘terrified’ ... In 2021, Ahpra sent a chill through the medical profession when it warned doctors not to make any public statements about anything that might ‘undermine the national immunisation campaign’ or they would risk suspension or loss of their registration ... It was effectively seen as a gag order. This was unprecedented. In my long career, we had always relied on open dialogue in the profession.”³

As vaccine-injured patients, most of us have witnessed this first hand, with some doctors:

- outright dismissing vaccine-related harms prior to undertaking even a cursory examination of the patient;
- preparing medical reports which fail to mention the vaccine at all, and;
- not reporting adverse reactions to state and federal authorities.

¹ speakupdoc.com

² “COVID-19: Doctors for and against coronavirus vaccine claim medical regulator Ahpra has silenced them”, *The West Australian*, 8 January 2023.

thewest.com.au/news/coronavirus/covid-19-doctors-for-and-against-coronavirus-vaccine-claim-medical-regulator-ahpra-has-silenced-them--c-9041979

³ Dr Kerryn Phelps. *Power of Balance: A Life of Changemaking*.

www.hardiegrant.com/au/publishing/bookfinder/book/power-of-balance-by-kerryn-phelps/9781743799406

As the national organisation supporting those who have been injured and disabled by the COVID vaccines, **COVERSE** has been ignored by all peak medical bodies as we have attempted to engage them for assistance and to develop collaborative working relationships.

2. Have you personally been advised of such intimidation, because I am told by AHPRA no such intimidation occurred?

“Orthopaedic surgeon stated: ‘I am sure the symptoms you have are as result of the COVID-19 vaccination but you won't get me or any other medical practitioner put that in writing.’”

This is one example we include as evidence (attached), of the gaslighting our members have received from medical professionals as they have attempted to seek help for the injuries they have incurred from the COVID vaccines. It is our experience that medical professionals are indeed that - professional - and so it is not their practice to inform their patients of whether they are being intimidated by Ahpra. It could be inferred by statements like the one above, and many of those contained in our included examples, that there was some external source creating pressure on the medical profession, forcing their hand in how they interacted with, treated and then recorded the vaccine-caused medical conditions they were faced with.



Stories of gaslighting from our data

From COVERSE data (as of 3 July 2024): 41% of patients say their usual GP has not acknowledged their vaccine injury. 84% have been referred to specialists. Only 52% have received any form of formal diagnosis from a doctor, although 27% received a diagnosis that later proved to be incorrect.

The below quotes have been abbreviated to shorten the text and obscure identity. A significant portion of these patients subsequently got medical acknowledgement of vaccine-caused injury.

I went to see a GP, who was very standoffish, and told me to change my diet. I ignored this and promptly arranged another appointment with my usual GP. They refused to talk about the possibility of vaccine related issues. This was my first clue that the Drs had been silenced about vaccine complications.

Countless GP and specialist visits. It's only recently that there seems to be a slight willingness to consider that it may be vaccination related. No one is willing to put that in a report but is open to that suggestion behind closed doors.

Doctors don't want to risk their reputations by treating a vaccine injured person. By labelling me as mentally ill, despite not having any psychiatric disorder, they have fulfilled their obligations and I become someone else's problem.

As a concerned citizen and believer in vaccines, as soon as I could have my third vaccine I did so! I immediately had a seizure and I became unresponsive for 20 minutes. I was having up to 20 seizures a day for 10 minutes at a time for the first month. The hospital neurologist said I was having a psychological event.

My GP told me I must have been hyperventilating when I went in to get the vaccine. I went to see another GP. She seemed worried and asked if there was anything that happened to set off these symptoms. I told her it all started the next morning after I had my vaccine and she shut down straight away and told me it was all in my head.

The Neurologist said to me, "We have run every test available. There are no more tests to run & we can't pinpoint anything." I suggest it could be the vaccine and I get the response, "I wouldn't think so."

It was clear to the emergency doctor it was a reaction to the jab and it was my understanding he was reporting it, but I believe higher powers overrode him. My GP verbally told me he too believed I presented with a vaccine injury, but would not put it down on paper due to the politics of it.

My doctor commented that I'd been vaccine hesitant, and so made the assumption I was just paranoid and that there was nothing wrong because my blood results came back ok

My doctor showed real irritation at my mention of the possibility of the vax being the cause.

I reported my reaction to TGA, as my GP hadn't reported and thought it was anxiety.

When I went to the GP, my reaction was excused as not being related to the vaccine. The GP ignored what I was telling them and only focussed on what they were seeing.

My GP insisted on me getting the vaccine, but is reluctant to attribute my condition to the vaccine.

I told my GP that my health issues began within 24 hours of having the vaccine and I felt the vaccine had caused it. The GP replied "rubbish".

Seeking help from Doctors has also been a horrible experience, they were all dismissive, uninterested and urging me to get a second vaccine.

12 months later I had a heart attack, and further investigations found that I had myocarditis which was missed in the beginning.

My GPs are now very defensive, every medical professional is treating me like I'm crazy or lying. When I had the vaccines it was to protect the Australian health system. I knew reactions were possible, I just thought I'd get treatment and respect if I had one.

Clearly none of our local doctors knew that the vaccine could cause the issues I developed. Had been given this information I would have chosen not to have had the jab.

My Dr said nothing was wrong. I was taken to hospital via ambulance with a suspected heart attack. It took a further 6 months, and changing Drs & seeing multiple specialists, to finally get an MRI and a diagnosis of myocarditis.

Having the Covid vaccinations was a severe handicap to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. I felt reporting my symptoms to my GP was ignored.

After letters from GP and all of my specialists, the health department refused to grant me an exemption. I lost my job, my health, my self esteem.

I felt like I was going to have a heart attack. I went straight to hospital and they denied that it was the vaccine.

I went to several Drs who all advised it wasn't because of the vaccine, and would I like an antidepressant.

Took myself into emergency with severe chest pains & shortness of breath. I mentioned I had the vaccine earlier the day prior. The treating Dr dismissed any relation, advising it was too soon to be a reaction of the vaccine.

I spoke to the doctor about my symptoms and she said that everything I was experiencing was nothing to do with the vaccine, and if I was concerned to go to the hospital... but it's definitely not vaccine related.

All the specialists I saw brushed me off when I tried to tell them I thought I was having an adverse reaction to the Pfizer vaccine.

I have been let down and abused by the medical, legal, government and community systems. I was ignored, mistreated, misdiagnosed and blatantly lied to

My doctor was enraged - to this date I don't know why. I was horrified when my doctor shouted, "what do you want ME to do about it?"

The hardest part is no-one in the medical field believes you. They avoid the subject and no-one will talk to you about it. It's just not discussed. It's avoided and shrugged off, like it wasn't heard or just plain and simple "it's got nothing to do with the vaccine".

I asked about vaccine effect and was again told, highly unlikely. I was discharged and told no apparent medical condition. Several weeks later the hospital called me and said they did a second review of my chest x-ray which showed an enlarged heart.

When I mention my vaccine reaction to GPs they are dismissive and defensive. I have asked two separate local GPs for Covid vaccine medical exemptions and both have refused.

My gp and other doctors I saw insisted I had anxiety, and I just needed antidepressants. I now have permanent tinnitus and vision issues. I have being continuously fobbed off, gaslit, censored, and I cannot afford treatment because I can't work.

My Dr told me there is nothing wrong. They and other Drs told me it's all in my head and nothing is wrong. Then one day I read an article on POTS and it sounded just like my symptoms. I got my Dr to refer me to a cardiologist to confirm it. And yup, it was confirmed.

The first two GPs behaved highly inappropriately. They both advised me to get the booster Covid shot even though neither of them had established a diagnosis of my injury.

I went to my GP. They said it was likely stress and to take some time off or work. My symptoms persisted and began to get worse. My GP again said I was likely stressed. I saw a specialists, who I told that symptoms started directly after my second vaccination, however he did not remark on it other than to say it was 'coincidental' but could not provide any other medical reason for my issues.

When I had my shot I experienced immediate pain in my arm which spread to my shoulder, elbow and to my wrist, also my chest. Tinnitus started. Very fatigued and brain fogged. Nearly passed out at work and taken to hospital with suspected heart attack. Cardiologist just said I had "anxiety".

No doctor linked the issues they were seeing on my ultrasounds to the vaccine. As I didn't know I was reacting to the vaccine, I went and got a second dose. Since then, I thought I was going to have to kill myself to stop the agony.

At hospital I was seen to quickly and advised I likely had pericarditis. I spoke to my GP about an exemption from the second vaccine but was told my symptoms were from stress, not the vaccine.

My workplace is no longer a happy place for me, my immediate manager is trying to manage me out since I had to take so much time off.

I am not the same person anymore I used to be prior these vaccinations. I curse the day I agreed to taking the vaccines. I never wanted to but Dan Andrew made me do it. I fainted at home after my first shot & had a seizure. My GP didn't bother about my heart issues, and when I complained she said it's just the anxiety.

I was told by my neurologist that he had seen other people with the same symptoms, he told me it was the vaccine and would go away. He recommended I have the second dose. Over 18 months on and I still have the problem, I think I'm going to have this issue for the rest of my life.

This illness has been the biggest challenge of my life, and what hurts the most is being gaslit by doctors and my company saying I caused my own injury due to getting the vaccine in my own time. They have never supported me along the journey, and I now face termination for being unfit for work. The reason I got vaccinated was to save my job, which will cause me to lose my job.

My cardiologist refused to exempt me even though I have active Pericarditis.

Have been battling ongoing symptoms and no one believes that my vaccine injury is genuine because it doesn't fit the 'accepted' adverse events such as myocarditis/pericarditis. Very isolating to suffer alone for so long, and have to fight for care and acknowledgment constantly.

My cocktail of symptoms occurred within 11 hours of being vaccinated. My severe reaction was so significant my GP advised waiting the maximum time for the second dose. I have been sent to many specialists - but none were prepared to say I was vaccine injured.

Response from my doctor was as expected, he wouldn't confirm the booster was the problem. All reports say it only affects young men. I am in my 60's.

My GP advised the state government of my adverse effect and I was contacted by a doctor who said it was a coincidence.

GPs won't take me seriously and continue to imply my symptoms are anxiety related. There is no one there to help.

My symptoms started within 12 hours of the 3rd vaccine. I told my Doctor I felt it was from the vaccine. He "gaslit" me by dismissing my concerns, and said it was all coincidental. I called BS on his "diagnosis" and assumption that all my sudden and profound symptoms, all at the same time, were all a coincidence.

I am still traumatised over the way I was treated. I worked at the hospital for over 15 years. After 3 ED presentations I was sent away telling me there was nothing wrong, even though I had blood tests with high D-dimer levels and CT scan that showed I had pericarditis. I was lied to.

During visits with GP and specialists I explained that the only different thing that I could say I had done was receive three doses of the Pfizer vaccine and they all dismissed this saying it was not a reported side effect.

My GP sent me to a specialist who said the vaccine did not cause tinnitus. [note: it does]

Through all of this I was most disgusted with my GP. We spoke several times via Telehealth and asked for tests and referrals. He just dismissed me and told me it was anxiety and all made up. It has been an incredibly isolating experience.

I went to my local after my 1st shot after waking to see the right side of my face was drooping. I was informed by my Doctor I had most likely had a stroke and was taken to hospital via ambulance. The consensus from at least four different doctors was I had had a mini stroke. When I mentioned to each Dr I had recently had a vaccine, I was discarded and told that this was very unlikely to have been caused by the vaccine.

I drove myself to the hospital and explained to the staff what was going on. A doctor came and gave me some medication. He then rang the government hotline to see what to do. He also advised me not to get the second shot because my reaction would be a lot worse. He apologised, and said he was advised not to say that by the government. I went to visit three separate doctors to try and obtain a medical exemption. All refused.

My GP didn't know what was happening to me. After consulting other medical professionals, my GP told me it was likely an underlying issue and I should get better. When the question of my medical problems being caused by the COVID vaccination, he said it was unlikely because based on the current evidence and medical guidelines, what I was experiencing was purely coincidental.

I ended up in hospital with my heart in atrial fibrillation four days after my first vaccine. They assured me it was not from the vaccine and sent me home. Several weeks later I had a heart scan and was diagnosed with pericarditis from the Covid vaccine.

After the vaccine my life turned to hell. I reached out to Drs for help, and they said they can't help as they will lose their licence if they say it's from the vaccine. I attended hospital numerous times to be sent home with no answers. It's been so frightening. It's like I am waiting to drop dead. And no one will help.

My doctor has advised I cannot have any further mRNA vaccines, but this is being rejected as the cause of my adverse reaction since my condition is not recognised by ATAGI.

I told the nurse before administering the second dose of the pains all over the body from my first dose, and wanted her to check with the doctor if I should or shouldn't have the second dose. The doctor said I had an extremely strong immune system, and I should proceed with the second dose as I will have no symptoms after the second dose. I took this on good authority and to this day I regret every adhering to this doctor's words.

I have been gaslit by most medical practitioners I have seen. I have been turned away by ED many times. I have been told I have anxiety many times. I am now housebound and debilitated. My doctor now recognises what is happening but cannot help me as he does not know how.

My GP sent me to the hospital on four separate occasions and the hospital ignored me. I had an asthma attack in the ED and was told to stop coughing as I was disturbing the other patients.

A few days after my first vaccine I started experiencing dizziness and stabbing chest pains in the heart area. I was given the all clear at ED and told it was just anxiety. The discharge doctor told me I absolutely had to have my 2nd vaccination. A week after my 2nd shot it all escalated again, but this time it was way worse. I went to ER another two times with stabbing, and gripping chest pain. I thought I was having a heart attack. The 3rd time I went was horrific, I didn't even get to see a doctor. A nurse asked me what I expected them to do for me, and that I should 'seek therapy'.

I attended my local ED. The doctor literally laughed at me and said I was fine, sending me home before my blood results were in and without a discharge summary. My chest pain and shortness of breath worsened. I returned to ED, and was seen by a different doctor who laughed at me as I cried in pain clutching my chest explaining I hadn't slept in almost a week, I couldn't take deep breaths. I went home with no answers and no help. The symptoms worsened for 5 weeks, and I eventually went back to ED eventually and they finally took me seriously. I overheard the nurses saying "another one - Pfizer" etc.

Orthopaedic surgeon stated: 'I am sure the symptoms you have are as result of the COVID-19 vaccination but you won't get me or any other medical practitioner put that in writing.