



January/February 2022

... let us be the light at the beginning of your journey

The right of charities to advocacy retained

Senate debates

Thursday, 25 November 2021

Regulations and Determinations Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Amendment (2021 Measures No. 2) Regulations 2021; Disallowance

3:31 pm



Rex Patrick (SA, Independent)

I move:

That the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Amendment (2021 Measures No. 2) Regulations 2021, made under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, be disallowed [F2021L00863].

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Amendment (2021 Measures No. 2) Regulations 2021 should be disallowed as they amount to a prohibition of freedom of political communication and expression and expose charities to the risk of deregistration for actions most Australians accept as a right and in which they may have engaged, such as peaceful protests and sit-ins. Quite simply, the intent of these regulations is to stop charities engaging in lawful advocacy in pursuit of their charitable purpose. Millions of Australians donate, volunteer and are otherwise involved in charities every year.

They provide frontline services in the areas of climate change, domestic violence, homelessness, refugee issues and a vast range of other social issues—issues this government doesn't really care about. Charities have raised issues and continue to advocate on issues such as black deaths in custody and the end of gender-based violence.



Senator Rex Patrick

These regulations would have huge consequences for the ability of charities to speak up and advocate on behalf of the communities they represent and are part of. Further, these regulations impose far harsher penalties on charities for any minor offence than on any other corporate citizen. Charities don't even have to have committed an offence. The Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission only needs to believe they might. If he believes that, they can be deregistered or refused registration. Charities are being held to a higher standard than any other organisation simply because the government is now going to categorise all their activities and advocacy as political activity.

There is a huge contrast here. Someone could have a sit-in to draw attention to an issue, and their charity could be deregistered. But we have sports rorts, car park rorts, blind trusts and the misappropriation of public moneys and that all gets

written up in some report by the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Mr Gaetjens, and sent to the dirty little secrets committee of cabinet—that is, the governance committee of cabinet that was established under Tony Abbott. Basically, it ensures that if you want to write about the government and its illegal activities you simply have it funnelled to that committee and you won't see the results for the next 20 years. How convenient that is. Concerningly, these regulations would hold a charity responsible even where an unknown member of the public simply comments on a charity's Facebook post and encourages people to participate in a demonstration, say a sit-in. That would be grounds for deregistration.

There is no doubt that this will have a chilling effect on charities. It's obvious that this is intended to silence public discourse and action on political matters that impact charities and the Australian communities they assist. Am I being alarmist here? No. I refer all senators to the report of the Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation. They are absolutely concerned about what I've just talked about. Charities will have no choice but to stay silent, out of fear of being shut down, and that is no accident. This is an intentional and deliberate method this government has chosen in order to wield more control and avoid being held to account. The government have become more and more autocratic, shutting down debate and criticism, avoiding accountability and using other quietening techniques they feel necessary to get themselves back into government.

The government justifies these regulations as being needed to boost
(continued on page 4)

CANCER INFORMATION & SUPPORT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 42 No. 1 January/February 2022

Editor: Don Benjamin

CISS Home Page:
www.ciss.org.au

Office hours:

Monday to
Friday

{ 10.00am - 1.00pm &
2.00pm - 4.30pm

The Secretary
Cancer Information &
Support Society
6/56 Chandos St
St Leonards NSW 2065
Phone/Fax: (02) 9906 2189
email: support@ciss.org.au

IN THIS ISSUE

- P. 1 The right of charities to advocacy retained: Senate speeches by Rex Patrick and others
P. 2 For Sale: Xylitol; Free Psych-K for members; Supplements for CISS members; CISS Seminar DVDs;
P. 3 Overseas & Local News:
P. 7 Dissenting doctor Dr Samuel White; Are the Covid-19 vaccines effective and safe?
P. 8 Does COVID-19 Vaccination increase mortality?
P. 9 Making Sense of COVID-19 Statistics, by Don Benjamin
P.10 A Superfood Diet for humans: Your starters for 10.
P.12 What's available from the CISS Office; CISS Branches and Cancer Support groups

(continued from page 12)

high probability that we'll have further variants," Professor Esterman said. "The trouble is that these variants are evading our immune system."

Deakin University epidemiologist Hassan Vally believes Omicron has put us a step backward rather than on our way to endemicity. "I think the problem is the fact that it's evading to a certain degree the immune response that's caused by vaccines," he said. These comments highlight the problem stated in the article on page 7 showing "the fundamental design flaws of the vaccines. Measurements of antibodies in the blood can never yield any information on the true status of immunity against infection of the respiratory tract."

Covid Vaccines not protecting the most vulnerable

Vaccinations are supposed to protect the most vulnerable from a serious Covid-19 infection—but they don't seem to be doing much for cancer patients. Fully-vaccinated cancer patients still have a 65 percent chance of needing ICU (intensive care unit) care, and 13 percent died from the infection.

People with blood cancers were at the highest risk, but anyone with a compromised immune system—such as people with an organ transplant—were also poorly protected by a Covid vaccine,

say researchers from the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

They reviewed the progress of 1,787 cancer patients who caught the Covid virus although, of these, just 54 were fully vaccinated. Worryingly, half of the vaccinated group had reduced levels of T and B cells, the immune system's first responders to a viral infection.

(Source: *Annals of Oncology*, 2021; doi:10.1016/j.annonc.2021.12.006)

FROM: WDDTY 18 January 2022

Maurice Newman, former Chairperson of the ABC, chair of the board of the Australian Stock Exchange and Chancellor of Macquarie University summarised his criticism of how the Covid situation has been handled in Australia this way: "Covid has become an ideological war waged by a cartel of vested interests and abetted by an incurious media. In a grab for power and money, they have resorted to lies, coercion and fear to strip the free world of its liberties."

Daily Telegraph 17 January 2022

By Tuesday 25 January the Daily Telegraph was reporting some epidemiologists predicting that the pandemic would soon be over and be just like a more serious form of flu.

A Superfood Diet

In the January 2022 issue of *What Doctors Don't Tell You* the editorial/Comment is called **A diet fit for a monkey**. It summarises research that suggests that, unlike animals, humans don't have a built-in instinct for what is good for them.

To overcome this problem they offer a diet "to invigorate your intuitive sense of healing foods by offering our Superfood Diet, which includes the best regimes and the best superfoods for preventing a vast number of diseases, from high blood pressure to cancer." See pages 10-11.

(continued from page 6)
something wrong. It is an overreach, and senators should vote against it.



Slade Brockman (President)

The question is that the disallowance motion moved by Senator Patrick be agreed to. (The motion was agreed to and the regulation to extend the powers of the ACNC was disallowed. In other words the proposal to extend the powers of the ACNC was defeated in the Senate.

Supplements for CISS Members

Low Dose Naltrexone all strengths 1.5mg to 4.5mg
100 compounded capsules (Doctor's prescription needed)
Look up "Low Dose Naltrexone" Homepage
Stabilised electrolytes of oxygen 50ml—\$15 (Chlorine Dioxide)
Visionary Health Compounding Chemist (02) 4969 5081

Free Psych-K for CISS members

CISS members can receive Psych-K to identify and change negative belief systems free of charge. Ring the Office if you want to try it.

DVDs for Sale from the CISS Office

CISS Seminar "Cancer & Hope - Survivors share their Lessons"
available for \$29.50 plus postage for members + postage

The Cancer Information & Support Society is an educational, non-profit organisation. The information in this newsletter is made available as a community service. It is not meant to be construed as, or in place of, medical advice or treatment by your physician. CISS does not diagnose, treat or prescribe for any human disease or physical condition. It does not prescribe or dispense medicine of any kind. CISS is not commercially affiliated with any product, therapy, company, publication or person and it assumes no responsibility for the use of the information described herein.

OVERSEAS & LOCAL NEWS

The good news is that the Senate has knocked back attempts to increase the ACNC's powers to deregister "activist" charities. However there is still no word about CISS' appeal against the ACNC's revocation of CISS' charitable status because it is an activist charity.

So if the ACNC persists with its attempt to assist local doctors in closing CISS down (that we beat them at in 2019) it will be clear that the ACNC is prepared to

1. act against the High Court's 2010 ruling that charity regulators have no right to revoke the charitable status of "activist charities" such as CISS;
2. act beyond the powers listed in its Regulatory Act; and
3. ignore the recent decisions of the Australian Parliament in refusing to extend the ACNC's regulatory powers to do just this.

In other words, the ACNC sees itself as being beyond the law. It is clearly time for ACNC Commissioner Dr Gary Johns to be sacked.

The Ongoing Covid Situation

Most of the relevant news related to health continued to refer to the Covid-19 pandemic, current developments in different countries, measures taken to deal with the growing problem and reactions to those measures.

One exception was an article that stated that there had been an increase in deaths from cancer because some people had missed out on cancer screening that could have saved their lives. Another article said that cancer deaths had fallen over the past decade as a result of screening and effective treatments.

Both of these statements are clearly false because none of the trials evaluating screening for the different types of cancer have shown any significant saving of lives; and none of the current treatments have shown any significant improvement in survival.

Australia's media, with few exceptions, such as those mentioned below have continued to censor out anything that questions the current narrative that states that "the vaccines are safe and effective" and should be made manda-



Don Benjamin, Editor

tory; and anyone who questions this dogma, such as those who question this evidence is an "Anti-Vaxxer", is ignorant and is a right-wing extremist.

One of the grounds for preventing Novak Djokovic from staying in Australia to defend his tennis title was that "he should be removed from the country because of the danger he would stoke anti-vaccination sentiment" and thereby undermine "social cohesion". "The court decision would keep Australians safe" as Prime Minister Morrison described it.

A few doctors have risked their right to practise and their reputations by speaking out, but most of the population never hear from them. On page 7 we show one example of a British doctor who spoke out. I am not aware of any local examples.

To get the other side of the debate requires relying on the internet and a few overseas publications. The internet is very unreliable because anyone can provide a viewpoint, irrespective of the truth of the "facts" they quote. For example: What is the relative death risk from the Covid-19 vaccine compared to actually getting Covid itself?

Several articles have appeared claiming that the death rate from the vaccines is greater than the deaths from getting Covid itself. If this were true

the case for receiving a vaccine would immediately collapse. One source claims the death rate is over a hundred times greater!

What are the facts?

On page 8 "Does COVID-19 Vaccination increase mortality?" we show a reference to a proper scientific study that shows that the death rate from Covid vaccines of the mRNA type (e.g. Pfizer and Moderna) is about 20 times higher than the figures published in VAERS in the US, not 100 times higher. When broken down into age groups this study shows that these vaccines cause more deaths in all age groups than the Covid-19 virus itself. So the claim that Covid-19 vaccinations are safe is not valid.

This conclusion is also reached by two authors of a presentation at the Doctors for COVID Ethics symposium that was live-streamed by UKColumn on December 10th, 2021. They claim there is a fundamental design flaw in the vaccines. See Page 7, "Are the Covid-19 vaccines effective and safe?"

Further alarm bells?

A recent news item claims that *deaths from all causes* in the US have increased by 41% in 2021 and attribute this to the Covid-19 vaccine injections. This claim comes from the CEO of OneAmerica, a national life insurance company based in Indianapolis, Indiana. Do the statistics reported by the Centers for Disease Control support this figure?

According to Dr Mercola the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India also reports a 41% rise in *death claims* in 2021. One spokesman from an Insurance agency said that "While Covid-19 claims have decreased, we have seen an increase in non-Covid-19 deaths, which have risen even more than past levels due to co-morbidities being triggered by Covid-19." He did not attribute any of this increase to the vaccine injections. Nor did he supply a figure for an increase in deaths from all causes for 2021. Also this was a 41% increase in *death claims*, not in *deaths from all causes*. But it suggests something strange is going on. On page 9 we try to sort out the differing statistics.

Is Omicron a "blessing in disguise?"

Another factor is: How dangerous is the
(continued on page 12)

DISCLAIMER

All opinions expressed in the Newsletter are those of the authors and editor and not necessarily those of CISS. Readers are urged to evaluate for themselves any advice implied in articles. We provide references where possible to make this easier. CISS publishes for educational purposes only and takes no responsibility for the veracity of any claims presented. Where necessary we try to provide a variety of opinions in controversial areas.

The Cancer Information & Support Society is an educational, non-profit organisation. The information in this newsletter is made available as a community service. It is not meant to be construed as, or in place of, medical advice or treatment by your physician. CISS does not diagnose, treat or prescribe for any human disease or physical condition. It does not prescribe or dispense medicine of any kind. CISS is not commercially affiliated with any product, therapy, company, publication or person and it assumes no responsibility for the use of the information described herein.

trust in the charities sector. Seriously? Charities are one of the most trusted sectors in the Australian community, certainly more than politicians, and yet this is what is being wielded at them. To suggest that these regulations are needed to shore up the public's confidence in the sector is patently false. Is there any institution that requires new laws to increase public trust? Certainly not in this sector. The government needs to get its priorities right. The minister made further amendments to these regulations on 11 November, imposing additional reporting requirements and clarifying that the types of summary offences that relate to impairment of an individual's health were only intended to cover offences relating to causing physical harm to an individual. These new amendments do not alter the substantive effect of the regulations subject to this disallowance motion.

I want to end by quoting a few of the more than 100 charities who have expressed grave concerns about the regulation. The Barnardos Australia CEO, Deirdre Cheers, says: "We are currently helping more than 13,000 children in need. If we have to turn even one of those children away, due to increased cost, it will be a tragedy."

The Fred Hollows Foundation CEO, Ian Wishart, says:

Fred Hollows was well known for speaking out and demanding action from our political leaders. It's a key role of charities to advocate for those who don't have a voice. These laws limit the ability of charities to raise important issues and hold people in power to account. They have no place anywhere in the world, let alone Australia, where freedom of assembly and political participation, and basic human rights, are the cornerstone of our democratic society.

Anglicare Australia says:

... charity is not just about helping people in poverty. It's about creating a country where poverty doesn't exist. That's why we need to be able to stand up for the people we work with.

These rules are designed to stop organisations like Anglicare Australia from speaking up for our communities and our country by punishing us—and shutting us down for arbitrary reasons. They are not just an attack on charities. They are an attack on democracy.....

We're also calling on the Government to withdraw these changes—and end these attacks for good.

They are wise words, and I ask senators to pay attention to them.

This regulation is an awful regulation. If we look at the statement that our own committee has made on its concerns about this regulation, it's plainly obvious that the government has gone way too far here. It's unnecessary regulation, and I urge the Senate to assist me in having it disallowed.

3.39pm



Catryna Bilyk (Tasmania, Australian Labor Party)

The charities and not-for-profits in Australia have brought support and respect throughout our community. The 2016 Giving Australia survey found that 8.7 million Australians—over 40 per cent of the population aged 15 and over—volunteered for charities and not-for-profits, providing an estimated \$17.3 billion in value. Australians also give generously to charitable causes—around \$12.5 billion a year, including about \$3.5 billion in tax deductible donations. It's of little surprise that charities are so popular, when they've been established entirely for the purpose of promoting public good, whether it's helping vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians, tackling poverty overseas, promoting social justice and human rights, recording and preserving history or heritage, or protecting and caring for the natural environment. These aims are universally supported, even if there may be public debate about how they are achieved.

We also need to recognise the vital role that charities and not-for-profits have had in helping Australians get through the COVID pandemic. When lockdowns and restrictions were in place, charities were the ones that worked hard, under difficult circumstances, to meet skyrocketing demand. There were charities helping to connect people who were feeling isolated and lonely, supporting people who had lost jobs and income, and delivering meals and household essentials. The impacts of the COVID pandemic could have been much worse if it not been for the hard work of so many of Australia's charities and their staff and volunteers.

I thank Senator Patrick for bringing on this disallowance motion. The regulation he is seeking to disallow was designed to silence charities. It's another

battlefront in the coalition's ongoing war on charities, and it is a war. Let me outline some of the history. While in opposition, the coalition campaigned for years against the establishment of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, and they wasted no time in trying to abolish it when they came to government. Failing at that, they appointed Dr Gary Johns to hit the ACNC. Dr Johns has a history of criticising charities, accusing them of what he called 'impure altruism', whatever that means. He once said that the then Abbott government should deny 'charity status to the enemies of progress' and referred to the Indigenous reconciliation charity Recognise as the 'officially sanctioned propaganda arm of the Australian government'. At the time Dr Johns was appointed, David Crosbie, from the Community Council of Australia, said it sent 'a signal to charities that the government is out to get them'.

But the government's attempts to abolish and then undermine the ACNC were only the start of the war. Since Labor introduced the Volunteer Grants program, the coalition have slashed its funding in half. They've introduced no new initiatives to help recruit and retain volunteers, even though unpaid volunteering is considered to be worth almost \$17 billion to charities and \$39 billion to the whole economy, and despite the increased demand for volunteers during the COVID pandemic.

I have spoken several times in the Senate chamber about the charity fundraising Senate inquiry that I chaired. Years before the inquiry was established, the sector was calling for charity fundraising reform—and they're still calling for it. Compliance with complex and outdated fundraising laws is costing the sector \$15 million a year in red tape. The report's recommendations, delivered in February 2019, were supported by coalition senators and backed up by the government's own review three years ago. But the government has kicked the can down the road on fundraising law reform through six charity ministers—six. Just imagine if they put the same energy into addressing the sector's priorities as they have put into this regulation.

Sadly, the regulation we're debating now is not the government's first attempt to silence charities. In 2014, the government initiated moves to amend the Competition and Consumer Act in order to ban consumer boycotts for environmental campaigns. In 2017, the original draft of the government's foreign interference legislation would have

(Continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

forced many charities to register as foreign agents and stop them from advocating on important social issues. The government eventually backed down and exempted charities from the registration requirement, but only after pressure from the sector. The government has also inserted gag clauses into many social services agreements, and this new regulation threatens charities with deregistration if they commit minor or summary offences. While no-one wants charities breaking the law, this is an absolutely massive overreach. A summary offence could be something as simple as blocking a footpath at a public rally or failing to shut a gate to private property. And just one person—only one person—has to commit such a minor offence to give the commissioner the power to investigate and even deregister an entire charity, large or small. Even more bizarrely, merely promoting an event at which a summary offence is committed can trigger a process that could result in deregistration.

If all that isn't authoritarian enough, the regulation gives the commissioner the power to take action against a charity because he anticipates a summary offence being committed. That's ridiculous. Does the government think the commissioner has some kind of magic crystal ball he can use to predict lawless behaviour? It's as if we're living in the world of George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, with the charities commissioner playing the role of the thought police. I wouldn't trust any commissioner with that kind of power, let alone someone with the outdated attitudes of Dr Johns.

The peak community sector body, the Australian Council of Social Service, has described this new regulation as 'extreme overreach and an attack on our democracy'. Like ACOSS, charities and not-for-profits throughout Australia have raised real concerns that this regulation would effectively silence them—that the red-tape cost will be paid by all charities, regardless of whether they do public advocacy work or not. A recent pro bono Australian survey estimates that the regulation will cost the sector \$150 million in the year it takes effect and \$40 million every year after. Charitable causes will suffer, because the red-tape burden this government is imposing is beyond belief. It's heavy-handed and it's unnecessary. There are already provisions in place that allow charities to be deregistered for breaking the law.

Contrary to the government's narrative of a charity crime wave gripping the

nation—do you know how many charities have been deregistered in the past four years? I'm sure you don't, so I'll tell you: only two. Two of Australia's 59,000 charities have been deregistered for the kind of activism the government says is tarnishing the sector. Even the coalition members of the bipartisan Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation Committee agreed that the rules are antidemocratic and give the charities commissioner too much power.

After endorsing a report that contains major criticisms of this regulation, it would be the height of hypocrisy if those three senators did not support this disallowance motion. I understand from media reports that One Nation senators are considering backing the government and not supporting the disallowance. Can that be right? How could Senators Hanson and Roberts be so forthright only yesterday in fighting for what they see as rights and freedoms yet not support the freedoms of churches and charities to speak up on policy issues? How could One Nation senators happily consign those same churches and charities to around \$270 million in additional red tape over the next four years? But that's the path One Nation are looking at supporting: less freedom and more red tape. I wonder whether that's what their supporters put them there for.

Unlike the current laws, this regulation is not about stopping charities from engaging in unlawful activity. It's about silencing dissenting voices. Why does the Morrison government want to silence charities? The answer is obvious. This government is failing to act on climate change. The gap between the haves and the have-nots continues to widen. They continue to make savage cuts to overseas development assistance. So of course it's of little surprise that, when charities speak out, what they have to say is uncomfortable for this government to hear. But this government, instead of taking on board the advice of charities, decides that the best defence is attack. That is why they have been waging war on the sector for eight years.

Unlike the coalition, Labor values the important part charities play in public policy debate. As organisations that work at the coalface of social, economic and environmental causes, charities have a wealth of experience and a valuable perspective. This voice is vital to democracy and to good policy outcomes. And let's not forget that the charity sector kickstarted the campaigns for many vital reforms that are now widely embraced by Australians,

such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Medicare and marriage equality. Imagine where Australia would be now without these reforms and without the vital voice of charities to spearhead those campaigns?

But the Prime Minister, who praises the 'quiet Australians', would prefer Australian charities and not-for-profits to stay completely silent. Like naughty children, he'd like charities to be seen but not heard. He doesn't want charities to have a key role in public discourse because to do so would actually make his government accountable for delivering on social outcomes. Mr Morrison would like to see charities planting trees and raising money for bushfire victims but not advocating for effective action on climate change. He'd like to see them running op shops and soup kitchens but not advocating to address the root cause of poverty and structural inequality. He'd like to see charities providing education, health care and clean water to impoverished communities overseas but not advocating for a fair investment in overseas development assistance. He'd like to see them providing legal assistance to victims of domestic and family violence but not advocating for greater respect for women or for the government to invest more money in emergency accommodation for victims of domestic violence and their children.

The advocacy that Mr Morrison and his government so hate is how charities do some of their best work. But if you wage war on charities you're also declaring war on the people and causes they support. A war on charities is a war on the environment, a war on human rights, a war on poverty and a war on vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised Australians. For the sake of all Australians, this war must end. There's no charity crime wave and there's no need for this draconian law, so I urge all senators to vote for this motion and let charities get on with their important work.

3.51 pm



Janet Rice (Victoria, Australian Greens)

This needs to be knocked off. These regulations are all about the government trying to silence its opposition and silence its critics, tilting the level playing field of democracy in its favour. This needs to be seen as part of a whole suite of actions it's taking cur-

(continued next page)

(continued from page 5)

rently: stopping people from voting, through the voter ID laws, and the other legislation that's currently in the House, which is making organisations involved in advocating during election times jump through a huge amount of bureaucracy in order to do that.

Basically, these regulations will shut charities down just for speaking out, for being critical of the government—for saying things that this government doesn't want to hear. These regulations will discourage charities from promoting and having a presence at peaceful protests. They will make it harder for charities to share their resources with community groups and, of course, they will wrap charities up in unnecessary bureaucratic red tape and threaten them with deregulation if they fail to comply.

We know that the regulations and the penalties are disproportionate and incredibly punitive. They would see charities being shut down by the regulator because of really minor and inadvertent breaches of the law. But, if that's what the government wants to see, to ping a particular charity because they're particularly getting under its skin and niggling it just that little bit too much, that's the very sort of action that can be taken.

In particular, some of the most outrageous parts of these regulations are that they expose charities to pre-emptive punishment if the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission believes that they're likely to breach the regulations in the future. 'Likely to breach the regulations in the future'—that's shutting charities down for something they may do in the future! That treatment is absolutely unprecedented. Neither for-profit corporations nor political parties can be deregistered because a staff member might do something in the future. This is a complete attack upon the ability of charities to be engaged in processes to advocate for human rights, the environment or social justice.

We have the situation at the moment where charities are operating very fine, thank you. We do not need this sort of really punitive overreach by the government, which is going to have a massive impact—it will have a huge chilling impact. We know, of course that there has been a huge array of charities, right across the spectrum, which have united together through the Hands Off Our Charities Alliance, opposing these regulations. I really want to salute them all. It is remarkable we have had charities right from the environment groups through to quite conservative Christian organisations that have worked together with organisations right across the political

spectrum because they all recognise what a huge impact on their operations these regulations are going to have. They absolutely must be overturned for the sake of charities to be able to operate fairly and appropriately in our democracy today.

3:55 pm



Bridget McKenzie (Victoria, National Party, Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience)

The government opposes this disallowance. The proposed changes to governance standard 3 seek to redefine the standard to capture the offences of trespass, vandalism, theft, assault and intimidation. This will empower the ACNC Commissioner to investigate such breaches of the law by charities and take enforcement action if warranted. Charities will still be able to undertake advocacy activities consistent with their charitable purpose, provided it is conducted lawfully. Registered charities that act lawfully and do not use their resources to promote others to engage in unlawful activities are already complying with the proposed changes.

3:56 pm



Deborah O'Neill (NSW, Australian Labor Party)

I'm proud to stand up to call for senators to vote to stop this attack on free speech in the charities sector. This is happening on the same day, the very same day, that Mr Morrison got up in the chamber at the other place, genuflected to religious freedom, and his Assistant Treasurer is busy smothering any attempt of religious charities to speak up against the government.

I acknowledge the great contributions of my colleague from Tasmania, Senator Bilyk, who put on the record the detail of this, and those who participated in the debate. I point out that the marriage equality campaign commenced with charity action and so did the NDIS. This is a government that talks out of two sides of its mouth, dog whistling to win votes and never delivering for the Australian people, only delivering for itself. I urge the Senate to vote for this disallowance. It is an unnecessary and drastic overreach that will prevent charities continuing the fantastic work that we

know that they do.

The idea that in our common law system a charity could be deregistered merely on the suspicion a member of the organisation was committing a crime is totally outrageous. Extraordinarily, the ACNC Commissioner could deregister a charity that was neither charged nor found guilty of an offence. An entire charity such as Barnardo's Australia could be deregistered if just one of its staff or volunteers engaged in minor vandalism or trespassing, or if the charity cannot provide evidence to show it has taken reasonable steps to make sure resources are not used to promote or support unlawful contact.

This type of collective punishment of NGOs is more reminiscent of Lukashenko's Belarus or Orban's Hungary. It does not reflect the Australian proud tradition of democracy and civic benevolent action by people of faith and people of no faith who seek to do good for their fellow Australians, and do it collaboratively. Just like with the voter suppression bill, this is yet another attempt by the government to win the next election through tilting the scales in its favour. Not content with rorting every grant program in sight, they want to keep the charity sector silent and acquiescent in an election year.

This piece of regulation from the government is all about power and politics for them; it's not about good for the Australian people. The reason we're here is well and truly made clear by a submission of the Centre for Public Integrity, which says:

Through the delegation of law-making powers—

Which are the powers the government is using to put this really bad piece in action—

policy decisions that affect the rights and obligations of individuals, business and industry are increasingly being made by the Executive without adequate parliamentary oversight or other forms of accountability.

That's why we're here, trying to put the brakes on a runaway government that wants to take out the charities sector—the charity sector! It's not good enough to go after Australians for robodebt, not good enough to rort all the money through all the schemes—including the sports rorts, the car park rorts, the Building Better Regions rorts; now they want to go after the charities, who might in the future have a volunteer who might do

(continued on page 2)

Dissenting doctor Dr Samuel White

WDDTY 9 Dec 2021
9 December 2021 by Bryan Hubbard

When we launched WDDTY all those years back, The Observer newspaper—then renowned for its perspicacity and deep wisdom—correctly pointed out that we “raise the alarm bell long before it becomes the stuff of national panic”.

In those golden days, the media would report fairly, and often generously, about WDDTY; today, if we are mentioned at all, it's to denigrate us and, of course, never bother to hear our side of events. This happened three times in the days following our launch on the news-stands. One magazine even claimed our intent was to kill people!

This stroll down memory lane has been triggered by a High Court ruling this week that has found in favour of family doctor Dr Samuel White, whose license to practice had been curtailed by medicine's controlling body, the General Medical Council (GMC). Dr White is something of a 'Covid sceptic', and he produced two videos that, among other things, questioned the safety of the vaccines, said mask-wearing did no good, and that other Covid treatments that did work were being suppressed and doctors were barred from using them.

Not surprisingly, this didn't sit well with the GMC, who said Dr White's videos were bringing medicine into disrepute. He was ordered to take down the videos, not make any new ones that were promoting a similar message, nor even comment on any post where he could sneakily put forward his dangerous views. He was also barred from practising, but this was rescinded after a month.

In his defence, Dr White claimed his right to freedom of speech, which is enshrined in human rights legislation. Yes, believe it or not, every human being has the right to say what he or she likes, provided it doesn't incite violence or cause 'a national panic'. Those words again.

The court didn't contest the point, or even consider the merits of Dr White's claims, but ruled that the GMC had overstepped the mark. Technically, it was a failure of process rather than a matter of legal interpretation, but, still, a victory is a victory.

So what is a 'national panic'? It was a lawyer in the USA who perhaps best encapsulated what freedom of speech meant; in a famous ruling, he said we are free to shout 'fire' in a cinema just as long as there was one.

In that instance, the panic was legitimate—even if the person mistakenly believed there was a fire.

Let's apply the principle to today's fevered Covid times. It could be argued that the panics, vaccine-denialists, lockdown sceptics—usually grouped into one amorphous 'anti-vax' blob—were inspired by messages they saw or read.

To ban these messages, as Facebook has tried to do, is to assume that the messengers sought to spark national panic while knowing their messages were not true. That's almost impossible to establish, as that requires psychological insight into motivation.

When we've carried out our own research, we've discovered there is more than a grain of truth in the anti-vax position. Just a week ago, for example, we reported on research by the Columbia University Irving Medical Center that discovered that fatalities from the Covid vaccines were being under-reported by a factor of 20 times. In their estimates, the researchers reckon that up to 175,000 Americans died as a direct result of the vaccine between February and August this year.

The stuff of national panic, or is that just truth-saying? Is there actually a fire in the cinema?

Are the Covid-19 vaccines effective and safe?

by Don Benjamin

On page 8 we show a reference to a proper scientific study that shows that the death rate from Covid vaccines of the mRNA type (e.g. Pfizer and Moderna) is about 20 times higher than the figures published in VAERS in the US. When broken down into age groups this study shows that these vaccines cause more deaths in all age groups than the Covid-19 virus itself, (not 100 times higher). So the claim that Covid-19 vaccinations are safe is not valid.

This conclusion is also reached by two authors of a presentation at the Doctors for COVID Ethics symposium that was live-streamed by UKColumn on December 10th, 2021. However the authors' main conclusion is that the vaccines are not effective. The authors were Sucharit Bhakdi, MD and Arne Burkhardt, MD. Before his retirement in 2012 Dr Bhakdi published over 300 research articles in the fields of immunology, bacteriology, virology and parasitology. Dr Burkhardt is a pathologist who has published more than 150 scientific articles in German and international

scientific journals as well as contributions to handbooks in German, English and Japanese. Their presentation was titled “On COVID vaccines: why they cannot work, and irrefutable evidence of their causative role in deaths after vaccination”.

They first explain “Why the vaccines cannot protect against infection: A fundamental mistake underlying the development of the COVID-19 vaccines was to neglect the functional distinction between the two major categories of antibodies which the body produces in order to protect itself from pathogenic microbes. The first category (**secretory IgA**) is produced by immune cells (lymphocytes) which are located directly underneath the mucous membranes that line the respiratory and intestinal tract. The antibodies produced by these lymphocytes are secreted through and to the surface of the mucous membranes. These antibodies are thus on site to meet air-borne viruses, and they may be able to prevent viral binding and infection of the cells.”

“The second category of antibodies (IgG and **circulating IgA**) occur in the bloodstream. These antibodies protect the internal organs of the body from infectious agents that try to spread via the bloodstream. Vaccines that are injected into the muscle – i.e., the interior of the body – will only induce IgG and circulating IgA, not secretory IgA. Such antibodies cannot and will not effectively protect the mucous membranes from infection by SARS-CoV-2. Thus, the currently observed “breakthrough infections” among vaccinated individuals merely confirm the fundamental design flaws of the vaccines. Measurements of antibodies in the blood can never yield any information on the true status of immunity against infection of the respiratory tract. The inability of vaccine-induced antibodies to prevent coronavirus infections has been reported in recent scientific publications.”

They then explain that “The vaccines can trigger self-destruction. A natural infection with SARS-CoV-2 (coronavirus) will in most individuals remain

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)
localized to the respiratory tract. In contrast, the vaccines cause cells deep inside our body to express the viral spike protein, which they were never meant to do by nature. Any cell which expresses this foreign antigen will come under attack by the immune system, which will involve both IgG antibodies and cytotoxic T-lymphocytes. This may occur in any organ. We are seeing now that the heart is affected in many young people, leading to myocarditis or even sudden cardiac arrest and death. How and why such tragedies might causally be linked to vaccination has remained a matter of conjecture because scientific evidence has been lacking. This situation has now been rectified.”

They then presented the results of histopathologic analyses performed on the organs of 15 persons who had died after vaccination. They observed that “a number of salient aspects dom-

inated in all affected tissues of all cases. [Although the heart and lungs were the most common organs attacked, a minority of cases included liver, thyroid gland (Hashimoto’s thyroiditis), salivary glands (Sjögren’s Syndrome) and brain.]...This combination of multifocal, T-lymphocyte-dominated pathology that clearly reflects the process of immunological self-attack is without precedent. Because vaccination was the single common denominator between all cases, there can be no doubt that it was the trigger of self-destruction in these deceased individuals.”

Their conclusion stated that “Histopathologic analysis shows clear evidence of vaccine-induced autoimmune-like pathology in multiple organs. That myriad adverse events deriving from such auto-attack processes must be expected to very frequently occur in all individuals, particularly following booster injections, is

self evident. Beyond any doubt, injection of gene-based COVID-19 vaccines places lives under threat of illness and death. We note that both mRNA [Pfizer and Moderna] and vector-based vaccines [AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson] are represented among these cases, as are all four major manufacturers.”

They pointed out that “Not a single death was brought into any possible association with the vaccination by the coroner or the public prosecutor; this association was only established by our autopsy findings. The initially performed conventional post-mortems also uncovered no obvious hints to a possible role of vaccination, since the macroscopic appearance of the organs was overall unremarkable.”

So this paper rejects not only the claim that Covid-19 vaccinations are safe, but also the claim that they are effective.

Does COVID-19 Vaccination increase mortality?

There has been criticism of the US Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) program on the basis of it being voluntary and biased in its reporting. One claim was that it used a different definition of “vaccine related deaths” for COVID vaccinations than from earlier vaccinations. Up to the 10 December 2021 there were 691,884 adverse reactions and 9,295 deaths in the US, a lower rate than was observed in Europe. Several commentators have suggested that due to a series of biases there has been significant under-reporting of the US data.

These included unfounded claims that the real death rate from the vaccines was up to 100 times higher than that reported in VAERS. These claims came from observing only the deaths in the weeks after the vaccinations rather than the **increase** from the normal deaths during these periods. (For example there are ~330 million in the US and about 1% or ~3 million die every year, i.e. ~58,000 every week. This figure needs to be subtracted from the observed deaths to estimate any increase during the weeks after vaccination.)

A recent paper published¹ avoids this problem by observing the increase above background deaths. It has analysed the data and confirmed the alleged under-reporting, concluding that the under-reporting in the US VAERS data is by a factor of about **20**. This suggests that the number of deaths

caused by the vaccine is more than 187,000 (i.e. ~0.04%) rather than the reported figure of 9,300 deaths (i.e. ~0.002%). There was an estimated 167,000 vaccination-related deaths over the 7 month period from February to August 2021.

The researchers came to this estimate by observing regional variation in vaccination rates to predict all-cause mortality and non-COVID deaths in subsequent time periods using two independent, publicly available datasets from the US and Europe. They found that vaccination was accompanied by an increase in all-cause mortality 0-5 weeks post-injection in almost all age groups but not 6-20 weeks after the injections and with an age-related pattern consistent with the US vaccine rollout. In other words, during the 5 weeks from the first injection the all-cause mortality increased and returned gradually to normal after 6 weeks. There were no other events that could have caused this sudden and significant increase in deaths.

The Vaccine Fatality Rates (VFR) increased with age. The authors concluded that comparing their age-stratified VFR with published age-stratified coronavirus infection fatality rates (IFR) suggested the risk of death from COVID vaccines and boosters outweigh the benefits in children, young adults, and older adults (with low occupational risk or previous coronavirus exposure) and

that there were really ~146,000 to 187,000 vaccine-associated US deaths between February and August, 2021. They conclude that their findings “raise important questions about current COVID mass vaccination strategies and warrant further investigation and review.”

When individual age groups were analysed it was found that for age groups 15-44 and 45-64, the overall tendency is that protective vaccine effects disappear about 20 weeks after the first injection. This is consistent with the falling protection observed by the vaccine manufacturers who suggest booster shots after this period.

For the unvaccinated age group 0-14, most associations between mortality and vaccination in adults are positive. This tendency for positive correlations increases from the week of vaccination of adults until week 18 after vaccination, then disappears. It indicates indirect adverse effects of adult vaccination on mortality of their unvaccinated children of ages 0-14 during the first 18 weeks after the adults’ vaccination. In other words vaccinated adults appear to have passed on COVID-19 infections to children, although not necessarily their own.

1. *Spiro Pantazatos and Herve Seligmann. COVID vaccination and age-stratified all-cause mortality risk. October 2021. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.28257.43366*

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/355581860_COVID_vaccination_and_age-stratified_all-cause_mortality_risk

None of the statistics coming from US and UK official sources make much sense.

For example the US Centers for Disease Control refer to VAERS (Voluntary Adverse Events Reporting System) for reports of adverse events. Last July VAERS reported that there had been 12,313 deaths attributed to Covid-19 vaccinations. This was widely reported at the time to have been under-estimated by a large factor because of the difficulty of definitely establishing that the death was completely caused by the vaccine or at the same time as another cause; rather than just happened soon after a shot.

An article on page 8 shows why most autopsies failed to establish this link. The best estimate is that the figures were under-reported by a factor of about 20. This means that in July 2021 deaths caused by the vaccines were not 12,313 but closer to 246,000; so deaths from the vaccine were higher than the deaths from getting Covid itself in all age groups.

On July 21, 2021, the CDC's website reduced the number of VAERS reports related to COVID-19 vaccination deaths up to July 13, 2021 by a half—from 12,313 down to 6,079.

A recent report from Insurance company One America states that there has been an increase in deaths from all causes by 41% in 2021 and attribute this to the Covid-19 vaccine injections.

Another strange statistic reported by the UK Office of National Statistics (ONS) is that the death rate among the vaccinated is about 60% higher than that among the unvaccinated. See Figure below.

Reuters Fact Check Team claimed that the graph shown is misleading. They conceded that it is true that the 10-59 age group has a higher rate of mortality for Vaccinated individuals compared to the Unvaccinated. However, this is not due to vaccines causing deaths but the result of higher

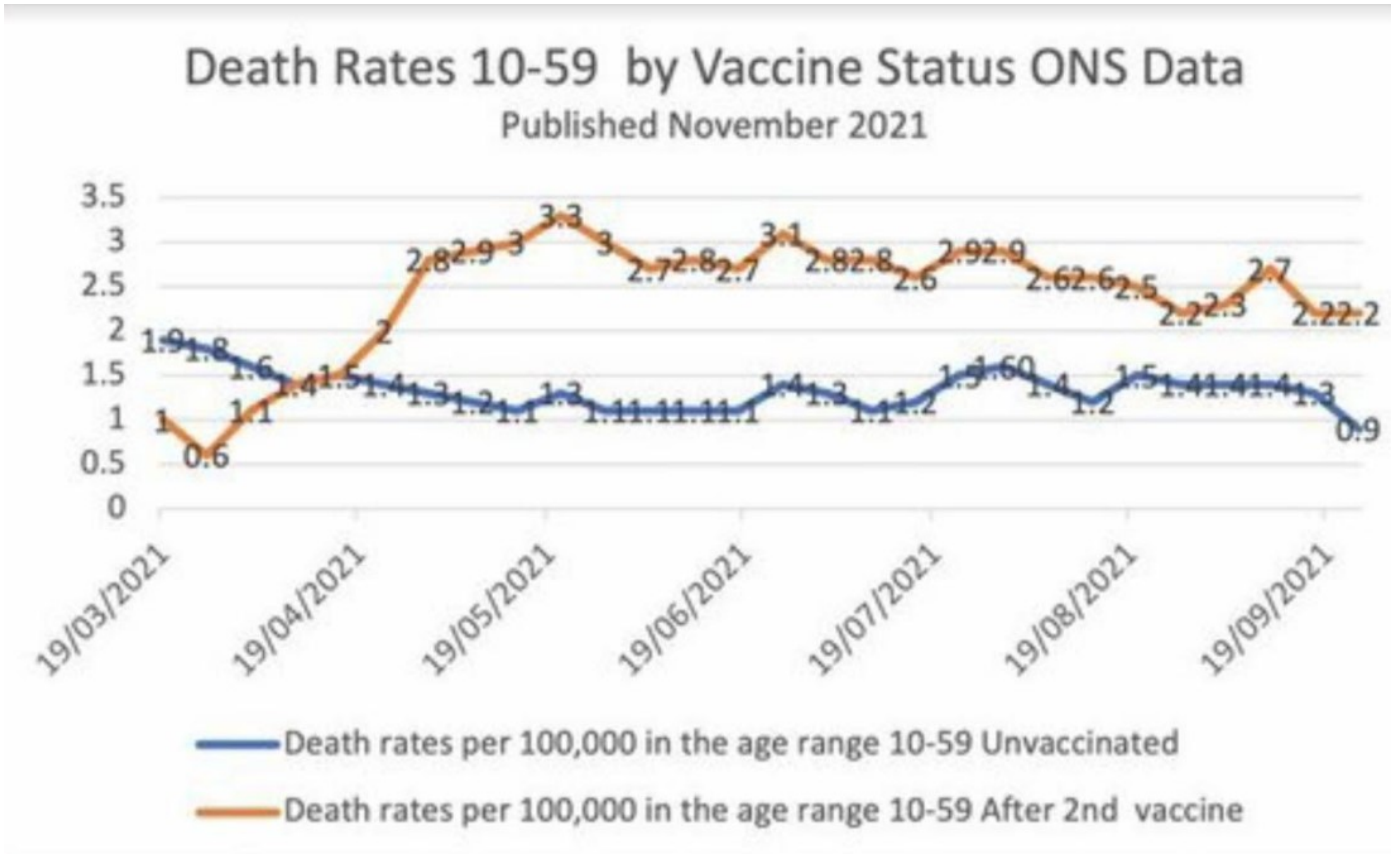
vaccination rates among older age groups in the range, who also have higher mortality rates. However they don't explain why the death rate rose suddenly from late March 2021 until mid-May. For this to happen most of those in the older age groups, the over 50s, would have to have received their vaccines during this short interval.

Although this could have been a factor, the other factors reported in this Newsletter suggest that there may in fact have been an increase in deaths caused by the vaccines.

- (i) The one on page 8 suggests that vaccine deaths were under-reported by a factor of 20, meaning the death rate from vaccinations was higher than from Covid itself in all age groups;
- (ii) The one on page 7 suggests that the mRNA vaccines trigger an auto-immune-like self-destructive response that explains how the vaccine induced deaths in all of the 15 persons autopsied following their deaths observed soon after they received their vaccinations; and
- (iii) The report from the US Insurance company suggest a significant increase in deaths following vaccinations.

The earlier reports following the trials of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines described how the trials evaluating the vaccines' safety were terminated before 12 months and the protocols were not correctly followed. The number of deaths observed in the vaccinated arm exceeded those that normally result in vaccines being discontinued on the grounds of safety. There were clearly financial and political incentives over-riding the normal safety processes.

Incentives coming from the medical profession are clearly driving the vaccination push. Australia's TGA prohibited doctors from prescribing Ivermectin as both a preventive and a treatment for Covid, despite several randomised controlled trials showing that it was very effective as both a preventive and a treatment for Covid, just as they prohibited Hydrazine Sulphate for treating cancer despite its proven record.



Your starters for 10

Scientists have ranked foods and drinks according to their likely impact on our health

We all know we should eat more vegetables and avoid fast food and soda, but does this mean we can never eat a pizza? And just how bad is a bowl of Kellogg's or a can of Red Bull?

To find out, a research team from Tufts University has scored a range of foods and drinks according to their impact on our health and how they add to the risk of developing chronic health problems such as obesity, diabetes, heart problems and cancer.¹

The result is the Food Compass, a new way to evaluate the foods we eat. It's more nuanced than a simple traffic light system, and the researchers are hoping the food industry will use it to help people make better food choices (good luck with that).

The researchers analyzed more than 8,000 foods and drinks on supermarket shelves in the US and scored them on 54 different factors that influence our health. As such, the Food Compass is one of the world's most comprehensive nutritional profiling systems, the researchers say.

To make life easier, the researchers have categorized foods and drinks into one of three Food Compass categories: foods with a Food Compass Score (FCS) of 30 or below are the unhealthiest and should be avoided most of the time; those that fall between 30 and 69 should be consumed only in moderation; while only those that score more than 70 can be part of a daily, healthy diet.

What's the score?

The Food Compass categorizes foods and drinks into one of three categories based on their impact on our health. Anything that scores more than 70 is healthy and can be consumed every day, those that score between 30 and 69 should be consumed only occasionally, and anything below that should be avoided or eaten rarely.

LESS THAN 30

AVOID (ALMOST ALWAYS)

DRINKS

Iced coffee mocha	Red bull
Cranberry juice	Gatorade
Iced, bottled tea	Sodas
Capri fruit juice	

GRAINS

Naan bread	White rice (with margarine)
Kellogg's Corn Pops	Cooked pasta
English muffin	White roll
Kellogg's Corn Flakes	Pita bread

FRUIT

Candied apple	Dried figs
Maraschino cherries	Dates

MIXED DISHES

Pizza, extra meat	Instant soup
Cheese sandwich/white bread	Beef
White rice and soy sauce	Tuna salad
Cheeseburger	Fish soup
Hot dog	

SWEETS/SNACKS

Reese's cup	M&Ms
Popcorn	Tiramisu
Doritos	Milky Way
Frozen yogurt	Angel food cake
Snicker's	Skittles
Custard pie	Marshmallow

REFERENCES

1 Nature Food, 2021; 2: 809-818

30 TO 69		70 PLUS	
ONLY IN MODERATION		AS OFTEN AS YOU LIKE	
Grapefruit juice	Coconut water, sweetened	Tomato juice	Orange juice
Coffee	Blended fruit juices	Celery juice	Carrot juice
Apple juice		Fruit smoothie	
Bulgur	Wholewheat bread	Oatmeal	
Millet	Buckwheat pancakes	Quinoa	
Brown rice	Instant oatmeal	Whole-grain pasta	
Tortilla	Rye bread		
Frozen raspberries		All fresh fruit	
Sweetened canned fruit		Unsweetened canned fruit	
Brown rice and carrots	Turkey	Seafood	Lentil soup
Starchy vegetables	Sausages	Ceviche	Spinach
Canned minestrone soup	Grilled cheese sandwich	Mussels	Brown rice and beans
Chicken			
Sweet potato chips	Fruit sorbet	Yogurt	
Potato chips (crisps)	Halvah	Almonds	
Wheat crackers	Fritos corn chips		
Ice cream cone			

What's Available from the CISS Office?

DVD: CISS 2007 Seminar: Cancer & Hope \$29.50

Enema Kits: \$16.50

Prices are subject to change. Items can be posted to you. There is a \$8.50 postage/packing fee for standard articles, \$10-\$14 for country and interstate, \$15.00 Express Post.

Branches of CISS

NSW

CISS CENTRAL COAST

The Central Coast Branch holds a meeting on the third Monday of the month at 7 pm, and on the third Saturday of the month from May to August at 2 pm. Meetings are held at Green Point Community Centre, 96 Koolang Road, Green Point. Informative speakers, extensive library, support and shared experiences. All are welcome. For further information contact Sue Johnston on 0410 696 458 or email cisscentralcoast@bigpond.com.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUPS

NSW

ACTIVE WOMEN TOUCHED BY CANCER & CELEBRATING LIFE

Meets at Balgowlah RSL, Ethel St, Seaforth on 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 7pm. \$5 donation. Guest speakers. Contact Robin 9938 6128 or Kate 8902 0196

BLUE MOUNTAINS CANCER HELP INC, KATOOMBA

Support groups and complementary therapies. Groups include the Gawler "Living Well" 12 week program at Katoomba and Springwood, and a Breast Cancer group. Regular support groups held twice a month. A not-for-profit charity supported by our op shops. Phone 4782 4866, www.cancerhelp.net.au.

CANDLES CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets Fortnightly [Thursdays] 10-noon Kanwal Community Hall, Pearce Rd Kanwal [Central Coast] Provides information, support, empathy and understanding. Phone/email contact available if unable to attend meetings. Open to all types of cancers patients, male and female. Survivors and carers all welcome. Contact: 4393-5017 for details.

CANHHELP CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Based on the Ian Gawler approach. Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month from 6.00-8.00pm at Level 1, 280 Pitt St. Enjoy meditation, sharing and support. Ring Sue Saxelby 0408 442 030 or just turn up.

HILLVIEW COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Meets each Tuesday 1.30-3.30pm at 1334 Pacific Highway Turrumurra. Includes a meditation. No charge. Phone 9449 9144 and ask for Patricia Krolik.

KEMPSEY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

This group for cancer patients and their carers meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10 - noon at the Community Health Building. Contact Penny Snowden 6562-6066.

NAMBUCCA VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP
Meets every Wednesday, Agnes Grant Centre, Macksville & District Hospital, 11 am - 1 pm. Phone 6568 2677.

NEWCASTLE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

For information contact Make Today Count, 44 Dudley Road, Charlestown, NSW 2290. Phone 4943 8462.

PARKES CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every 3rd Monday of the month at the Education Centre, Parkes District Hospital at 1.30pm. For further information contact Margaret Green, 6864-5123 or Mary McPhee, 6862-3814.

QUEST FOR LIFE FOUNDATION

Residential and day programs and webinars (on-line seminars) for people living with cancer, grief, loss or trauma. Contact (02) 4883 6599 or visit www.questforlife.com.au.

ST GEORGE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every Monday morning at 10.30am at St George Community Hall, Premier St, Kogarah. For info contact Margaret on 9580 5061. See website <https://sites.google.com/site/stgcsq/>

SUTHERLAND SHIRE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every Tuesday morning from 10.30-12.30 at the Parish Centre of the Catholic Church, 50 Kiara Road, Miranda. For further information contact Deborah Harrison, 9523 5200.

SYDNEY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL CANCER SUPPORT CENTRE

Meets each Wednesday 10-12 noon at Jacaranda Lodge, 185 Fox Valley Rd, Wahroonga. A discussion group for patients and carers of any cancer type. Also special support groups for different cancer types and for carers. Contact Nerolie on 9487 9061.

VICTORIA

CANCER NATURAL THERAPY FOUNDAT'N

Support group meets on Tuesday nights at 7pm at 531 Elizabeth Dr, Sunbury, Victoria 3429. Meeting includes discussion, relaxation therapy and Reiki Healing. Certified organic produce available these nights. The Foundation operates a resource library, workshops and guest speaker program. Personal Counselling available. Contact Sandra Givca Maqueda (03) 9740 9921; mobile 0411 100 947.

GAWLER FOUNDATION

The Gawler Foundation has leased the property to the Brahma Kumaris group for two years. During this time the BKs will maintain the property and run their own meditation retreats there. The Gawler Foundation will still have access to the property to run some of their programs, and for 2021 intend to run 4 x 5 day Cancer Fundamental retreats over the next 12 months. But without any paid admin staff, this will depend on the initiative of the therapists. Anyone interested in these programs or in individual cancer coaching could contact Maia and Paul Bedson at paulandmaia1@gmail.com

QUEENSLAND

CANSURVIVE on the Sunshine Coast meets from 10am-12 noon, 2nd Tuesday of each month at Eve Wilkinson's home, 99 Maleny-Kenilworth Rd, Maleny. Ph. (07) 5429 6598. Contact Cansurvive: PO Box 941 Maleny Qld 4552, Ph.: 5499 9918. Books, tapes, counselling available.

Cairns CANSURVIVE support meetings offer support, information and self-help activities for people affected by cancer or any other debilitating illness. Emphasis on self-help & development to enable individuals to better cope with fears and uncertainties. Meets 1st Saturday of each month at Cominos House, Greenslopes Street, Cairns from 2 - 4 pm. Cost \$10 per year + a coin donation on the meeting day. Afternoon tea provided. Books/videos available for loan for members. Contact Beulah 4051 5544 or Helga 4047 4812 (bh).

FRUITARIAN RAW FOOD NETWORK

Write to PO Box 293 Trinity Beach Qld 4879.

QUALITY OF LIFE CANCER SUPPORT GRP

Meets on the North Side of Brisbane. For details phone Alan on 3263 8390 or Michelle on 3269 9687.

(continued from page 3)

Omicron mutation? One of the questions discussed on the internet is how can we safely introduce real herd immunity, as distinct from the so-called herd immunity claimed to happen when nearly everyone has been vaccinated? One answer is that the Omicron mutation is very infectious but has a fairly low death rate. In other words a "blessing in disguise". If it is allowed to spread unrestricted, a high proportion of the public would quickly be infected (within a couple of months) and the pandemic would quickly end

and become normally endemic like the seasonal flu. Instead of recognising Omicron as a godsend it has until very recently been treated the same as the earlier versions.

I have only seen or heard the term "blessing in disguise" in The Australian on 8-9 January. But this is being ignored by most health "experts".

The Editorial in The Australian on January 8-9 says "the rate at which Omicron is surging, while adding to pressure on exhausted hospital

staff, may prove a blessing in disguise, health editor Natasha Robinson reports. Infectious disease experts believe the Omicron variant may have accelerated progress towards then end of the pandemic, especially in countries that are seeing very high rates of infection."

"But not all experts agree. Adelaide epidemiologist Adrian Esterman predicts the pandemic still has another year to run. He said if another variant came along, there would be further waves of disease. "The virus is highly mutated, and there's a very
(continued on page 2)

