

## **OFFICIAL STATEMENT CORONAVIRUS/COVID19 #2**

The Health Australia Party (HAP) has been deliberately cautious when commenting on the situation caused by COVID19. There is a mass of conflicting information, mostly dressed up as “facts”, and we may not know the full true story about this pandemic for years.

However, the HAP is deeply concerned by the situation, especially the recent imposition of Stage 4 restrictions that have been implemented in parts of Victoria. Even more concerning is the possibility of further restrictions as alluded to by Daniel Andrews if current measures are unsuccessful.

Victorian hospitals currently have 44 of the 4000 ICU beds and 592 non-ICU beds being occupied with Covid19 patients. Many staff are working very hard but the system is not overwhelmed, even with the additional pressures caused by patients arriving from some poorly managed nursing homes.

A State of Disaster has been declared in Victoria. This gives the Government additional police powers and any orders made override existing legislation that may be protecting the rights and interests of the people.

The original strategy to approach Covid19 was to "flatten the curve" to prevent hospitals being overwhelmed, however these actions indicate that there has been a fundamental shift to "eliminate the curve". While every death is tragic and unfortunate, we need to keep context in the current situation. There are on average 3,450 deaths every month in Victoria from various causes. Of course, we need to be looking after the vulnerable, particularly in aged care, however when the vast majority of people under 50 recover with minimal effects, this needs to be considered as well.

The current Stage 4 restrictions will have a devastating effect on mental health and will impose significant financial pressures. We have had people tell us about many suicides already, with an estimated increase of 25% per year for the next five years. Nationally, that's around 750 per year, nearly three times the current National Covid19 deaths of 278. Financial pressures on families cannot be underestimated and domestic violence also needs to be considered. Many small businesses who were able to withstand the first lockdown will permanently close because of this second lockdown.

While the vast majority of people are still compliant with Government demands, there is a relentless push to vilify anyone who has a differing opinion. Creating fear and division seems to be the approach, with anyone thinking outside the narrative being attacked vehemently by many politicians and a compliant unchallenging media.

## **WHAT WOULD THE HEALTH AUSTRALIA PARTY DO?**

The HAP supports proven infection control measures like sensible distancing, isolation of infected persons and thorough hygiene. We have the greatest possible respect for frontline doctors and nurses and their support staff in hospitals. Many workers in nursing homes are doing their best in the face of poor management and chronic understaffing. And our frontline police, army and emergency service workers deserve our support.

However, we could be doing much more before moving to harsh lockdowns with significant side effects. The HAP believes that there are three avenues that have not been promoted or seriously considered.

First, supporting the immune system has not been encouraged, and while it's not a perfect solution it certainly lowers the risk of serious complications if a person is infected with COVID19. For example, ensuring Vit D levels are adequate (usually supported with magnesium and Vit K supplements), and Vit C + Zinc supplements have both been shown to enhance the immune system. Of course, a healthy diet is always beneficial.

The second avenue is a simple effective treatment. Billions of dollars are being spent to develop a vaccine globally, however there seems to be little meaningful focus on effective treatments. There are multiple potential treatments with products on the market available now, however these are not discussed and some are even being censored or banned. While no solution is perfect, all options should be available to doctors to utilise as they see fit. For example, a course of treatment with Hydroxychloroquine is under \$30 compared to anti-virals such as Remdesivir, which costs more than \$3,000. Intravenous Vit C has been proved to be extremely helpful and is inexpensive. And there are many natural therapies that are being used successfully by doctors and practitioners in other countries, but not mentioned in Australia.

One has to ask the question why simple effective treatments are not at the top of the list of priorities. If they were readily available, the level of emergency would be significantly reduced.

The third avenue is immunisation. Not the billion dollar vaccines which may or may not eventuate with unknown risks and a likely effectiveness of around 40% to 70% (according to the FDA and Dr Fauci in America), but safe, inexpensive, proven natural immunisations now being used by some other governments with an expected effectiveness around 85-90%. Once again, not a perfect option but one that would make a massive difference to vulnerable groups as well as the general population.

Our politicians are either not being advised of these options by health authorities, are protecting vested interests, or are too afraid to speak out. Excessive restrictions and lockdowns are a consequence. The Health Australia Party calls for all treatment and prevention options to be openly and honestly discussed in Australia, without the negative filter of the pharmaceutical drug cartels being applied to include only options that yield them massive profits.

On a personal level, please keep in touch with people you know (even if interstate) and neighbours to ensure that they are ok in the midst of this difficult time. While there are Stage 4 restrictions in place, if people are in need then that falls under the care giving category which can be tended to.