

## **OFFICIAL STATEMENT CORONAVIRUS/COVID19 #4**

As with all Victorians, we were eager to hear the announcement last Sunday from the Victorian Government on the “path out” of the restrictive Stage 4 lockdown. We were shocked and deeply disappointed by the details of their “Roadmap to reopening”.

This roadmap is a Roadmap to Disaster for the state of Victoria, not designed to reopen the state at all. We were told the Stage 4 restrictions would be for a six-week period. The extension of restrictions means to get back to pre-Stage 4 restrictions (according to the roadmap) is not likely until at least October 26. Effectively this makes the six weeks of Stage 4 more like 12 weeks. Retail shops are not scheduled to reopen until November 23, resulting in retail closure for 16 weeks.

While a level of staging may be appropriate, the Victorian Government’s approach is one of the most restrictive of anywhere in the world and will have devastating effects on our state in every possible way. The staging has apparently been devised based on computer modelling for the virus transmission as directed by the Chief Health Officer (CHO). Models are not always correct and are only as good as the theoretical reasoning behind the model. It has been shown in other countries that the models are typically flawed.

For example, we already reported that the CHO has advised that the figures for CV19 deaths includes other deaths (ref to our post), and we know that what are reported as cases are actually infections. Standard methods of a defined case is someone presenting for treatments, not simply an infection. With this changed definition of a case, and overstated death figures the modelers will be using inflated figures.

The CHO has the perspective of infection control. While this perspective needs to be factored in policy and any roadmap, this is not the only factor for consideration. Every aspect of Victorian society is being affected by this roadmap, and every aspect needs to be considered. Premier Daniel Andrews has stated that “we’ll follow the advice”. This means that the unelected CHO would be running the state, not the elected Victorian Government and Parliament, as stated in Dr Golden’s video on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020. But in the end, Premier Andrews then said that he made the roadmap decision on his own, without input from the CHO or the Police Commissioner. What is the truth?

The Premier stated that the roadmap is not an elimination strategy, and that an elimination strategy is not appropriate. However, Step Four of the roadmap requires zero new cases state-wide for a period of 14 days. By definition, a requirement for zero new cases is an elimination strategy. Either

Premier Andrews is incompetent when it comes to this situation or he is lying that this is not an elimination strategy.

The HAP is deeply concerned that this medical totalitarian approach will have catastrophic consequences on our society, families, individuals' health, businesses, and the economy. Have the following been factored into the model, and if so how?

- How has mental health been factored into the model?
- How have increased suicide rates been factored into the model?
- How have business closures been factored into the model?
- How has unemployment been factored into the model?
- How has domestic violence been factored into the model?
- How have financial costs been factored into the model?
- How have restrictions on health services been factored into the model?
- How have undiagnosed serious illness and reduction in treatments been factored into the model?
- How has fatigue been factored into the model?

The fact is that it is only the incompetence of the Andrew's government that has created this situation in the first place. When the leadership team first sat down to plan a response to CV19, did they ask the most obvious question - what are the places of greatest immediate risk? No hindsight was needed to identify from the start the five main areas of risk:

1. Airports and ports where international visitors arrive
2. Places where people were in quarantine
3. Hospitals where CV19 positive patients were to be treated
4. Residential homes for the elderly
5. Prisons.

If they did not identify and plan to address these greatest risks, then they are incompetent. If they did consider these, then they are equally incompetent because they have failed to manage the first four of the five risks. Given their obvious incompetence, why should any Victorian trust their management of the next steps? Other comparable States such as NSW have shown how these risks can be managed without the same draconian lockdowns. If NSW were put into the current Victorian roadmap, they would be under the "Second Step" which includes 5km travel restrictions, almost no retail, and permitted industry works only. NSW is not operating under this Step and nor should they.

We are deeply concerned about the impact of this roadmap of stages. While the direct effects of the roadmap will be devastating, it is setting up the public to fail. With such long-term draconian restrictions in place, many more people are likely break the "rules" due to fatigue and unrealistic requirements from the Victorian Government. Public unrest is likely to increase, and it's easy to understand this perspective.

What can we do about the Victorian Governments approach before the next election (and will that be cancelled if Covid19 is still active)? It is hard to know how the public can be effective in combating a punitive approach with significant levels of intimidation being used against people who are speaking out against them.

The Victorian Governor has the power to dissolve the Legislative Assembly (where the Victorian Government holds power) when the Legislative Assembly passes a motion of "No Confidence" in

the Premier and Ministers. Write or call your local Legislative Assembly (Lower House) to express your thoughts.

Write or call to the Prime Minister to intervene on behalf of the Victorian people. There are limitations to the Prime Ministers power in this particular issue, however any approach needs to be pursued.

It is our hope that the Victorian Government sees some common sense and starts to consider the perspective of the Victorian people and the many doctors that are speaking out against the aggressive restrictions, instead of the subjecting the Victorian people to a state of medical martial law.

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.