



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Leader of the House

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 48 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3035 6100

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliament
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3593-21, tabled in Parliament on 26 October 2021, in relation to informed consent and data on adverse events from current and future vaccines with provisional approval.

I note the petition draws particular attention to the current vaccines for COVID-19 available in Australia. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) are responsible for assessing any COVID-19 vaccine for safety, quality, and effectiveness before it can be supplied in Australia.

Vaccination with TGA approved COVID-19 vaccines offers proven and safe protection against COVID-19. Vaccination protects against moderate to severe illness, breaking the link between COVID-19 cases and deaths and importantly, reducing transmission.

In relation to supplying information about all known, suspected and future potential side-effects with current and future COVID-19 vaccines to all prospective patients, I can advise that in Queensland, all consumers are required to complete a COVID-19 Vaccination Consent form in order to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Consumers are asked to confirm that they have read and understood current information on the vaccines provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health (<https://www.australia.gov.au/covid19vaccines>) which includes details regarding all real and potential side effects associated with receiving the approved COVID-19 vaccine. The Queensland Health consent forms for adults (18 years and over) and young persons (12-17 years) are available online (<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/novel-coronavirus-qld-clinicians/covid-19-vaccination-information-for-healthcare-workers/vaccine-protocols-and-management-templates>).

Consumers are strongly encouraged to access information about Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines from the TGA (<https://www.tga.gov.au/covid-19-vaccines>), the Commonwealth Department of Health and Queensland Health websites (<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccine/about/about-the-covid-19-vaccine>). Consumers are also encouraged to talk to their healthcare provider if they have any concerns or questions.

In relation to the request that a full comprehensive public register be established that provides detailed data on adverse events from vaccines and follow-up data on every patient who has taken a vaccine and passes away within 6 weeks of the vaccination, I can advise that all vaccinators are required to report suspected Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI) associated with vaccination (<https://www.tga.gov.au/health-professionals>). In addition, in Queensland, health practitioners are required to report COVID-19 AEFI to Queensland Health, and these are reported

to the TGA Medicines Regulation Division. The TGA publish a COVID-19 vaccine weekly safety report online (<https://www.tga.gov.au/covid-19-vaccine-safety-monitoring-and-reporting>).

Finally, with regard to alternative preventative options; along with good hygiene including covering coughs and hand washing, and simple public health measures like social distancing and mask-wearing when the risk of exposure is higher, vaccination with an approved COVID-19 vaccine remains the best proven option to prevent serious illness or death from COVID-19.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Yvette D'ATH". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'Y'.

YVETTE D'ATH MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Leader of the House