



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliament
George Street
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14 APR 2022

Dear Mr Laurie ^{Neil}

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3693-22, tabled in Parliament 15 March 2022, in relation to COVID-19 vaccinations and children.

COVID-19 vaccinations are a proven, safe and effective means of reducing both the risk of severe disease and transmission. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) assesses all vaccines in Australia. For a vaccine to be approved, the TGA must assess that it is safe, effective and manufactured to a very high quality standard.

To ensure quality of vaccinations, the TGA provides ongoing monitoring of the safety of registered vaccinations and also ensures an independent quality assessment of every batch of vaccine supplied in Australia.

Like all medicines, vaccines can have side effects. These are usually mild and resolve within a few days. Although severe side effects are rare, it is important support is provided to those affected.

The Australian Government has implemented a claims scheme for people who suffer a moderate to significant impact following an adverse reaction to a TGA approved COVID-19 vaccine. The scheme provides a simple, streamlined process to reimburse/compensate eligible people for their injuries without the need for complex legal proceedings.

A paediatric formulation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty) is available for children aged 5 to 11 years old, as recommended by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) and supported by National Cabinet. Recently, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine has also been approved for children aged 6 to 11 years old. These vaccines have been approved based on the results of clinical trials demonstrating that these vaccines are highly effective and that most side effects are mild and transient. Detailed information about the paediatric formulation of the [Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine](#) and [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#) is published on the ATAGI website.

Although most children will only experience mild illness if they contract COVID-19, some will experience more serious symptoms. Recent data estimates 1% of children with the Omicron variant require admission to hospital. In Australia, approximately 1 in 100,000 children infected with COVID-19 have died. Vaccinations remain the most effective tool available to prevent infection and severe illness in children and adults.

Vaccinating children also reduces the risk that they will become infected and spread COVID-19 to family members, friends and others around them. This minimises disruptions to education, extra-curricular and social activities, which can impact the wellbeing of children and their families.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



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