



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MC20-162421

16 October 2020

Ms Elizabeth Hart
elizmhart@gmail.com

Dear Ms Hart

Thank you for writing to me regarding a COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 is a threat to lives and livelihoods.

Already the virus has claimed more than 1 million fatalities worldwide, including many hundreds in Australia. It has been estimated that the pandemic has cost 500 million jobs worldwide.

A vaccine is vital to keeping people safe and restoring our way of life.

To this end, we are working towards securing a COVID-19 vaccine for all Australians.

An agreement with the UK-based drug company AstraZeneca will mean that every Australian will be able to receive the University of Oxford COVID-19 vaccine for free, should trials prove successful, safe and effective.

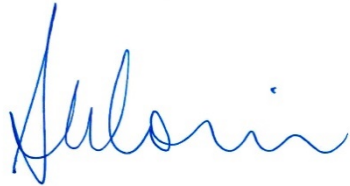
The Oxford vaccine is one of the most advanced and promising in the world. If the vaccine clears the trials, it could be available next year.

Australia is also in advanced discussions with other vaccine candidates. These include our very own CSL-University of Queensland molecular clamp vaccine, among others.

Vaccination is strongly encouraged to prevent a range of deadly and debilitating diseases in Australia. Vaccination is not compulsory in Australia and it will not be compulsory to have a COVID 19 vaccine.

However, a COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to protect the Australian community from this virus. As such, we want to achieve the highest rate of vaccination possible. The Government will explore all avenues to achieve this goal, guided by the advice of medical and scientific experts.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Morrison', with a stylized, cursive script.

SCOTT MORRISON