
Notification to AHPRA re medical practitioner Paul Kelly, Chief Medical Officer of Australia and Chair of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

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To: martin.fletcher@ahpra.gov.au, National Intake and Assessment Team <notifications@ahpra.gov.au>

Cc: Jamie.Pearce@ahpra.gov.au

For the attention of:

Martin Fletcher, CEO, Australian Health Practitioner Agency (AHPRA)
Anne Tonkin, Chair, Medical Board of Australia

Dear Martin Fletcher and Anne Tonkin

Notification to AHPRA re Paul Kelly - Chief Medical Officer of Australia and Chair of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

SUMMARY:

In June 2021, **Paul Kelly, as Chair of the AHPPC, violated the requirement for voluntary informed consent for Covid-19 vaccination**, with the AHPPC recommending to National Cabinet that the "residential aged care workforce be vaccinated against COVID-19, as a condition of working in a residential aged care facility..." (My emphasis.) (See AHPPC statement on residential aged care worker COVID-19 vaccination, published 29 June 2021, copy attached.)

This occurred after the AHPPC's original advice against compulsory vaccination for residential aged care workers (4 June 2021) was overruled by then Prime Minister Scott Morrison and National Cabinet, who wanted to impose mandatory vaccination upon residential aged care workers - this was a politically motivated decision, rather than based on medical advice.

The AHPPC chaired by Paul Kelly capitulated to Scott Morrison's and National Cabinet's demand to impose mandatory vaccination upon residential aged care workers.

This denial of voluntary informed consent for residential aged care workers set a precedent for depriving others of voluntary informed consent for Covid-19 vaccination, including subsequent workforce mandates recommended by Paul Kelly and the AHPPC, see:

- **AHPPC statement on mandatory vaccination of all workers in health care settings.** (Published 1 October 2021, copy attached).
- **AHPPC statement on mandating vaccination for disability support workers.** (Published 10 November 2021, copy attached).
- **AHPPC statement on mandatory vaccination of aged care in-home and community aged care workers.** (Published 10 November 2021, copy attached).

As a medical practitioner, Paul Kelly should be aware of the obligation to obtain voluntary informed consent for vaccination, as confirmed to me personally by AHPRA in [September 2021](#) (see letter attached):

"Practitioners have an obligation to obtain informed consent for treatment, including vaccination. Informed consent is a person's voluntary decision about health care that is made with *knowledge and understanding of the benefits and risks involved.*" (My emphasis.)

This advice on 'voluntary informed consent' is stated in [Good medical practice: a code of conduct for doctors in Australia, 4.5 Informed consent](#):

"Informed consent is a person's voluntary decision about medical care that is made with knowledge and understanding of the benefits and risks involved. (My emphasis.)

In November 2022, the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care [also confirmed to me](#): (See letter attached.)

"Informed consent should be obtained for every COVID-19 vaccination, as per usual consent procedures for other vaccinations."

The Australian Immunisation Handbook under **Valid consent** states:

"For consent to be legally valid, the following elements must be present...***It must be given voluntarily in the absence of undue pressure, coercion or manipulation***...It can only be given after the potential risks and benefits of the relevant vaccine, the risks of not having it, and any alternative options have been explained to the person." (My emphasis.)

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare Fact Sheet for Clinicians: **Informed consent in health care**, acknowledges key principles for informed consent, including: (See Fact Sheet attached.)

"...adults have the right to determine what will be done to their bodies and what healthcare treatments they will undergo."

and

"For there to be valid informed consent, the person consenting must...

- **Give their consent voluntarily...**
- Have enough information about their condition, treatment options, the benefits and risks relevant to them, and alternative options for them to make an informed decision to consent. This includes the opportunity to ask questions and discuss concerns." (My emphasis.)

An Australian Government Operation COVID Shield Q&A Fact Sheet titled: **Handling consent refusal by people presenting for vaccination**, informs health professionals: (See Fact Sheet attached.)

What is informed consent and why is it important?

Informed consent is an individual's voluntary decision to agree to a healthcare treatment, procedure or intervention, such as a COVID-19 vaccination, in its entirety, after the individual has been provided understandable, sufficient, appropriate and reliable information about the intervention, including the potential risks and benefits...

A patient must provide informed consent prior to vaccination.

The COVID Shield Q&A Fact Sheet warns vaccination providers: "**If a patient has not provided informed consent, you *should not* vaccinate them, even if they are mandated to receive a COVID-19 vaccination to perform particular roles or enter certain settings.**"

Quoting the Australian Law Reform Commission: (See Fact Sheet attached.)

"**At common law, all competent adults can consent to and refuse medical treatment. If consent is not established, there may be legal consequences for health professionals.**"

It is clear there is a legal and ethical obligation for medical practitioners to ensure that people have given their voluntary informed consent for vaccination, and people must not be pressured, coerced or manipulated into this medical intervention.

Ergo, voluntary informed consent cannot be obtained under vaccination mandates.

Why did Paul Kelly and the AHPPC disregard the obligation for voluntary informed consent, and collaborate with Scott Morrison and National Cabinet on their politically motivated decision to mandate Covid-19 vaccination?

BACKGROUND:

On 4 June 2021, **Paul Kelly as Chair of the AHPPC was evidently alert to his responsibility to ensure voluntary informed consent be obtained for vaccination**, as it was specifically announced that the "**AHPPC does not recommend compulsory COVID-19 vaccines for aged care workers**". (My emphasis.) (See AHPPC Statement on COVID-19 vaccination requirements for aged care workers, 4 June 2021, copy attached.)

Also on the same day, 4 June 2021, an ABC headline announced: "**Scott Morrison to use National Cabinet to lobby state governments to go against health advice on COVID vaccination**". (Copy attached.)

The ABC reported: "**The Prime Minister will lobby state and territory leaders to overrule medical experts' advice and force aged care workers to get the coronavirus vaccine... The panel of health experts, chaired by the Chief Medical Officer, has advised for a second time against making the coronavirus vaccine compulsory.**" (My emphasis.)

The workers' union did not support compulsion, with the ABC reporting: "A union representing Victoria's aged care workforce, the Health Workers Union (HWU), has argued against the decision of the Prime Minister... Union state secretary Diana Asmar said the HWU had strongly encouraged workers to get the job but did not believe it should be compulsory." Ms Asmar said: "We live in a free country and not Communist China."

It's stunning that it was publicly announced that Scott Morrison, a politician, was going to lobby his state and territory counterparts in National Cabinet to overrule the medical experts' advice.

As reported by the national broadcaster, the ABC, the political plan was to '**force**' aged care workers to have the coronavirus vaccine, **thereby denying this group of Australians the freedom to consent to or refuse medical interventions depending upon their own personal health circumstances and preferences, and threatening them with the loss of livelihood for refusing to comply with vaccination mandates.**

Subsequently, on 28 June 2021, it was announced "The National Cabinet agreed that COVID-19 vaccinations are to be mandated for residential aged care workers as a condition of working in an aged care facility through shared state, territory and Commonwealth authorities and compliance measures." (See: National Cabinet Statement. Liberal Party New South Wales. 28 June 2021. Copy attached.)

So after pressure from Scott Morrison and National Cabinet, Paul Kelly and the AHPPC reneged on their earlier advice **against** making the coronavirus vaccine compulsory for aged care workers, **and rubber-stamped a political decision after the event**, as announced in the AHPPC statement, **a day later on 29 June 2021**: "AHPPC recommends to National Cabinet that the residential aged care workforce be vaccinated against COVID-19, as a condition of working in a residential aged care facility..." (See: AHPPC statement on residential aged care worker COVID-19 vaccination. 29 June 2021. Copy attached.)

The Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation called it out at the time, being "concerned that mandating vaccinations for the aged care workforce could be a '**political decision, not a health decision**'..." (My emphasis.) (See: Still many questions over mandatory aged care vaccinations. 29 June 2021. Copy attached.)

Paul Kelly subsequently boasted "Australia was one of the first countries internationally to mandate COVID-19 vaccination", in his co-authored article published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* in November 2022 - Implementing mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for Australian aged care workers.

In other words, **Australia was one of the first countries in the world to deny voluntary informed consent for the Covid vaccinations**, facilitated by medical practitioner Paul Kelly and his medical colleagues on the AHPPC.

Australians were press-ganged into participating in a massive global scientific experiment, with then Health Minister Greg Hunt admitting in February 2021: "The world is engaged in the largest clinical trial, the largest global vaccination trial ever..." (See: Interview with David Speers on ABC Insiders on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. ABC Insiders. 21 February 2021. Copy attached.)

But this was an experiment without voluntary informed consent, which is a violation of medical ethics and international human rights conventions such as the Helsinki Declaration.

Paul Kelly and the AHPPC **should not** have recommended mandatory Covid injections for **any** group in Australia, and the medical profession **should not** have collaborated with **mandated medical interventions**.

Consistent with AHPRA's regulatory role, Paul Kelly must face professional disciplinary action for using his position as Chief Medical Officer of Australia to impose Covid-19 vaccination mandates, **which was in breach of legal and ethical requirements pertaining to voluntary informed consent.**

I await a reference number for this notification, and advice of further action. This email will also be submitted via AHPRA's online portal.


Sincerely













Elizabeth Hart

Independent researcher investigating vaccine products and conflicts of interest in vaccination policy
vaccinationispolitical.net

14 attachments

 **AHPPC statement on residential aged care worker COVID-19 vaccination.pdf**
97K

 **AHPPC statement on mandatory vaccination of all workers in health care settings.pdf**
119K

-  **AHPPC statement on mandating vaccination for disability support workers.pdf**
106K
-  **AHPPC statement on mandatory vaccination of aged care in-home and community aged care workers.pdf**
97K
-  **response-from-ahpra-re-informed-consent.pdf**
105K
-  **mc22-018819-signed-highlighted-1.pdf**
177K
-  **Fact Sheet for clinicians- Informed consent in health care.pdf**
325K
-  **covid-19-vaccinations---handling-consent-refusal-by-people-presenting-for-vaccination-handling-consent-refusal-by-people-presenting-for-vaccination.pdf**
1055K
-  **Consent to medical treatment _ ALRC.pdf**
92K
-  **AHPPC statement on COVID-19 vaccination requirements for aged care workers.pdf**
110K
-  **Scott Morrison to use National Cabinet to lobby state governments to go against health advice on COVID vaccinations.pdf**
825K
-  **National Cabinet Statement - Monday 28 June 2021 - Liberal Party NSW.pdf**
182K
-  **Still many questions over mandatory aged care vaccinations.pdf**
806K
-  **Interview with David Speers on ABC Insiders on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout _ Health Portfolio Ministers and Aged Care.pdf**
58K