



Senator Malcolm Roberts
One Nation Senator for Queensland

16 April 2020

The Hon. Scott Morrison
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Morrison

RE: COVID-19 RECOVERY PLAN

Thank you for your reply dated 14 April to my letter of 25 March 2020.

Noting that the government has put Australia's parliament – and therefore democracy – into hibernation, I now raise questions that would in normal circumstances be asked of Ministers in the Senate or of their departments in Canberra.

Before doing so I acknowledge again that there is no manual on how to respond to the serious and dynamic health and security crisis now confronting all Australians. I note that although we disagree with some aspects of your government's COVID-19 financial packages, in the interests of ensuring swift support to people whose lives have been jolted through loss of income we voted to support both packages in full. In doing so, and of necessity, we gave your government an open cheque.

As a Senator it is my duty to ensure accountability. Firstly, I note that your government and Australians generally can claim success in avoiding the scenario of overwhelmed health care services. Secondly, experience here and overseas is now such that the questions below need to be asked on behalf of the constituents I serve.

While I empathise with the government's challenge, people need answers. People are feeling confused, afraid, concerned; some feel lost, grieving for those dying and for our country. Some feel angry. Many are still living in disbelief and plagued with uncertainty.

People want to know what has to be done. Why it has to be done. How long before it's over. And, what will be the cost – financial, social, personal, mental and emotional? It is the people who have to repay these big bills of up to around \$300 billion to which your government has committed Australian taxpayers.

People have a right to know the facts, yet your discussion of modelling lacked specifics on the duration of isolation nor the plan and triggers for releasing people.

A solid plan is fundamental for trust and hope. People expect governments to lead and expect leaders to have a plan based on solid data and facts.

These are questions that I ask on behalf of our constituents:

1. Modelling

- a) What delayed your government so long before publicly discussing modelling as attempted in your media conference on Tuesday 7 April 2020?
- b) Does your modelling, like that from NZ and the Imperial College of London, show that after the lockdown the virus will still exist in the community and that unrestrained release of people from isolation would lead to an epidemic, unless successful treatments or vaccines are released?
- c) Why did your government not release the modelling at your conference?
- d) Why did your government not discuss the underlying assumptions including infection, transmission and mortality rates?
- e) Why did your government not discuss the variables modelled because without that people can make no meaningful conclusions?
- f) Why did the modellers release the draft version separately from you and not release the model?
- g) Why did your government not disclose and discuss the modellers' result and various alternative future scenarios that could be the basis for a national plan?
- h) Did your government use the modelling as the basis for its COVID-19 support packages legislation?

2. National Plan

- a) What is the government's plan for maintaining health and safety while restoring the economy, and what is the time frame?
- b) On what medical or scientific data do you repeatedly state that people will be isolated in hibernation for six months?
- c) Is the government considering the latest data and facts from nations like Taiwan, and to a lesser extent South Korea, that are highly successful in combatting COVID-19, and if so what is your government learning?
- d) Is your government considering adopting their strategy of isolating the sick and the vulnerable, combined with wider screening of elevated body temperature and more widespread testing of the population for the virus, so that instead of isolating healthy people and destroying livelihoods we can isolate the sick and the vulnerable thereby allowing the healthy to get back to work and restore our economy while protecting lives and livelihoods?
- e) Experts are saying the likelihood of a vaccine for COVID-19 is low because after 17 years no vaccine for SARS, a coronavirus, has been developed despite massive investment. Despite possibly one hundred years of effort no vaccine has been developed for the common cold, another coronavirus. What is your plan for releasing people from isolation before a vaccine is developed?
- f) What is the government's plan for treatment of people with the virus? Is it considering using hydroxy-chloro-quine, reportedly showing positive results in New York, and Ivermectin being 100% effective in Monash University's laboratory tests?
- g) What is the plan for mental health issues that experts warn will likely rise as the isolation continues? One of the worst things that can be done to a person is to take their job from them. Humanity needs security, connection, family, and friends. The government's shutdown is a ticking time bomb.

3. Data

- a) Some medical specialists have suggested COVID-19 attacks human vascular, blood circulation and oxygen absorption, while other experts claim it attacks the human respiratory system. What is the government's conclusion?
- b) Are casualties and deaths from influenza and pneumonia, both here and overseas, being reported as being due to COVID-19?
- c) How many people die WITH the virus and how many die FROM the virus? In some nations is the number of deaths attributed to COVID-19 inflated?
- d) Data suggests Australia's testing for the virus is narrowly focussed and well below the world's best in terms of testing per capita. Why?
- e) Will your government establish a website at which it will openly post the scientific data and basis for its plan and allow public scrutiny - a cornerstone of science? Will it openly post the modelling on which it depends?
- f) To ensure a diversity of medical views and to prevent group-think, will your government establish a fully funded independent scientific team to question and hold accountable the government's medical advisers?

When this is over, everyday Australians of all backgrounds expect to see - and deserve to be - a healthy secure people with a proud, independent Australia that reflects our lifestyle, culture, values, freedom, democracy and potential.

All people want is a fair go and governance that we can all trust to work for our country. What many Australians want, looking beyond our health and financial safety, is to make sure that we leave COVID-19 behind us with the same, or more, freedoms and liberties that we had before.

Yours sincerely



Senator Malcolm Roberts
Senator for Queensland

- c.c. Hon. Greg Hunt
Minister for Health
- Senator Anne Ruston
Minister for Families & Social Services
- Hon. Peter Dutton
Minister for Home Affairs
- Hon. Luke Howarth
Federal Member for Petrie
- Senator Pauline Hanson
Leader of One Nation