



Australian Government

Department of Health

Deputy Secretary

Mr Ed Miles
Director of Relationships
YouTube Australia
901 Cherry Ave
San Bruno CA 94066 USA

Email - _____

Dear Mr Miles

I am writing as Deputy Secretary of Health and Head of Australia's medicines regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

As you may be aware, the TGA has expressed concern about material promoted on social media, including YouTube by the United Australia Party which we believe provides a seriously misleading picture of the safety of COVID-19 vaccines and could discourage individuals and their families from becoming vaccinated. Extracts of information have been selectively taken from the Database of Adverse Event Notifications (which is hosted on the TGA website) and have been presented in such a way on social media that many could conclude that the vaccines have been responsible for several hundred deaths in Australia.

Some of the recent YouTube communications include:

[A Government Inquiry is needed now. - YouTube](#)

[Clive Palmer tells it how it is. - YouTube](#)

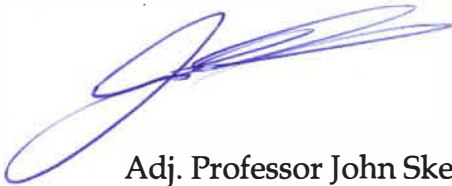
Large scale vaccination programs mean that coincidentally some people will experience a new illness or die within a few days or weeks of vaccination. This does not indicate a link between vaccination and the fatalities reported and review of individual reports and patterns of reporting did not suggest that the vaccines played a role in these deaths. Rather than several hundred, as of 25 October 2021 nine (9) deaths have been linked to vaccination by the TGA's team of medical officers, supported by independent external specialist advice.

However, the various communications on this topic on YouTube by senior UAP leaders and as the products do not promote or advertise use of a particular therapeutic good they do not constitute advertising within the meaning of the

Therapeutic Goods Act 1989. Similarly, agencies including the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the Australian Communications and Media Authority have advised respectively that because the communications do not involve promotion of an item of commerce and they come from a registered political party they do not have to comply with the Spam Act 2003.

Over the last couple of years the TGA has worked successfully with YouTube to remove advertising that allegedly was in breach of the Therapeutic Goods Act and Code, such as promotion of fraudulent products that claimed to treat COVID-19. While for the reasons described above the communications from the UAP do not fit into the category of advertising, I would ask you to consider removing such communications as they undermine Australia's vaccination campaign and are not in the public interest.

Yours sincerely



Adj. Professor John Skerritt
Health Products Regulation Group

26 October 2021



Australian Government

Department of Health

Deputy Secretary

Mr William Easton
Managing Director and Vice President
Facebook Australia
Level 41 Tower 2
200 Barangaroo Ave
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Email - _____

Dear Mr Easton

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Some of the recent Facebook communications include: ID: 423131832574819, ID: 1476387786061622, ID: 431289751665494

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Adj. Professor John Skerritt
Health Products Regulation Group

26 October 2021

cc Mr Simon Milner, VP Policy for APAC
cc Ms Mia Garlick, Director of Policy, Australia, NZ and Pacific