

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health and Aged Care

Senate Community Affairs References Committee

Inquiry into Excess Mortality

13 June 2024

PDR Number: IQ24-000075

Death rate comparison amongst vaccinated and unvaccinated Australians

Spoken

Senator: Malcolm Roberts

Question:

Senator ROBERTS: What is the answer?

Dr Gould: The answer is that it is very clear that COVID vaccines provided significant protection against mortality from COVID. They also extended that research to all-cause mortality. As we have said, COVID was the last—

Senator ROBERTS: Could we get a copy of the report please?

Dr Gould: Absolutely. It is publicly available, and we would be happy to send you a link for that.

Senator ROBERTS: Whereabouts?

Dr Gould: I can't quote the exact web address, but it is—

Senator ROBERTS: When did you ask them to do that report?

Dr Gould: I believe the date is current to 2022. We could take on notice when we started conversations about the report.

Senator ROBERTS: If you could please. What is the death rate comparison amongst vaccinated and unvaccinated Australians? I know you said there are many qualifications but, filtering through the qualifications, what is the death rate?

Dr Gould: It is lower for vaccinated Australians as per that research.

Answer:

In October 2023, the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) published a paper titled “Effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination against COVID-19 specific and all-cause mortality in older Australians: a population based study” in The Lancet, Regional Health, Western Pacific ([www.thelancet.com/journals/lanwpc/article/PIIS2666-6065\(23\)00246-8/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanwpc/article/PIIS2666-6065(23)00246-8/fulltext)).

This work was initially contracted by the Department of Health and Aged Care in October 2022.

NCIRS found COVID-19 boosters were highly effective in protecting older Australians against death from COVID-19, reducing the risk of death by up to 93 per cent compared to those who were unvaccinated in the first half of 2022.