

Stephen Kolano

19th August 2023

Secretariat, Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Subject: Public Submission- 'Public Governance, Performance and Accountability
Amendment (Vaccine Indemnity) Bill 2023'

Dear Committee Members

I am writing to express my strong support for the 'Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Amendment (Vaccine Indemnity) Bill 2023' currently under consideration. This crucial piece of legislation aims to establish a framework that ensures accountability and public safety in the context of vaccine development and distribution.

I am a father of seven children and the long-term health and wellbeing of my children is the primary motivation for my submission on this matter. I am a strong believer that vaccination is a necessary public health measure, however, the Government's handling of the covid 19 pandemic response, has eroded my trust and confidence in the Australian public health administration's competence and objectivity.

I believe that responsible governance and accountability are essential in safeguarding public health and well-being. The proposed bill takes a vital step in this direction by addressing the issue of vaccine indemnity for corporations. Corporations within the pharmaceutical industry, have historically demonstrated significant profitability. As such, there is a compelling case to be made that they should not be indemnified from potential liability resulting from the administration of their products. If they are truly providing high-quality, safe, and effective products, there should be no need for indemnity.

The allocation of substantial financial resources towards profitable corporations diverts funds that might be better spent on strengthening healthcare systems, supporting public health initiatives, and enhancing scientific research. By holding corporations accountable for the safety and effectiveness of their products, we can create a fair and equitable framework

that upholds the principle that public safety should always take precedence over corporate interests.

Robust testing procedures and rigorous oversight are essential to ensure that products and services provided by corporations, especially in critical areas such as vaccines, meet the highest standards of safety and efficacy. By removing the prospect of indemnity, corporations are incentivized to prioritize thorough testing and stringent quality control measures, which can significantly contribute to enhancing public trust in the healthcare sector. If supported, this bill will ensure corporations undertake this rigorous testing to confirm the safety of their products, and this accountability aligns perfectly with the ideals of responsible governance.

In conclusion, I urge the Senate Committee to fully support and advance the 'Public Governance, Performance, and Accountability Amendment (Vaccine Indemnity) Bill 2023.' By not indemnifying corporations and emphasizing their accountability, we can foster an environment where public safety is paramount and where corporations are motivated to deliver products and services that have undergone thorough testing and meet the highest standards.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I trust that your deliberations will ultimately lead to the enactment of legislation that ensures the welfare and security of our citizens.

Sincerely,

Stephen Kolano