



CASA Ref: EC24-000370

Ms Sophie Dunstone
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
CANBERRA, ACT 2600

Inquiry into a COVID19 Royal Commission

Dear Ms Dunstone

Thank you for your letter dated 8 April 2024 regarding the COVID-19 Royal Commission public hearing and for providing the opportunity to respond to assertions made in an exchange between Senator Roberts and Mr Graham Hood against the credibility of CASA's Principal Medical Officer, Dr Kate Manderson.

I emphatically refute the nature of the adverse reflections made during the public hearing regarding CASA and the Principal Medical Officer. The remarks were unsubstantiated and lack any factual evidence to support them.

I assure the Committee, and request it to be noted on record, that the actions of the Principal Medical Officer have always been guided by the highest principled and professional standards. Dr Manderson in her role as Principal Medical Officer continues to operate with the utmost confidence and support from both the CASA Executive and the CASA Board and is well regarded by the broader aviation community.

In recognising the importance of maintaining ethical standards especially in times of scrutiny, please be assured that I take all genuine concerns seriously and remain committed to addressing them transparently and thoroughly.

If the Committee requires any additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Ms Pip Spence PSM

18 April 2024