

15 November 2024



Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To All the Members of JSCOT

I am firmly opposed to Australia adopting the amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHRs) – and also to Australia signing up to the pending WHO Pandemic Treaty, currently under discussion in Geneva.

My reasons are as follows.

- 1 The treaties establish a mechanism whereby we would be giving the WHO an alarming degree of undue influence over the Australian government and its people.
- 2 The WHO is neither an independent nor an impartial body, and as such it is unfit to make decisions about health.
- 3 The treaties empower the Director of the WHO to declare a pandemic, even with no evidence of an actual emergency. This will lead to the activation of emergency laws in Australia that grant extraordinary power to health bureaucrats at the expense of normal democratic processes.
- 4 Emergency powers will enable our politicians and public agencies to follow the WHO's lead and restrict Australians' freedom by:
 - imposing lockdowns
 - enforcing travel restrictions
 - censoring scientific debate
 - incarcerating Australians
 - imposing medical treatments on Australians, or
 - implementing any other measure the WHO deems appropriate.
- 5 The WHO's approach to pandemic management in the Covid-19 epidemic – featuring lockdowns, masks, and travel restrictions – was grossly flawed.

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- 6 Implementing the WHO's approach to pandemic management in the Covid-19 epidemic created an economic and humanitarian crisis in Australia.
- 7 And if future WHO guidance is as disastrous as in the Covid years, the WHO is indemnified from liability for harm, further disqualifying it from making decisions about health.
- 8 Health Minister Butler's endorsement of the WHO's 2024 International Health Regulations (IHRs) and his committing of Australia to a BINDING (his words!) Pandemic Agreement is inappropriate as consultation with Australians about these documents has been woefully inadequate.
- 9 Australian politicians and agencies were not given 4 months to consider the finished wording of the IHRs and their implications for Australia, as required under international law.
- 10 In the future, the implementation of these treaties will cost Australia billions of dollars annually.
- 11 Moreover, these treaties have ongoing application and lengthy withdrawal periods, making them very difficult to get out of once we are committed.
- 12 And, as you will no doubt be aware, 14 well informed members of parliament have already objected to the treaties.
- 13 Finally, the document you are considering is illegitimate. The WHO's own rules state that for such an agreement to come into force, there must be a VOTE of member states attending the treaty discussions. At the late May meeting of the WHO a vote never took place. After a closed meeting session on the final day, WHO officials came out and stated that agreement had been reached by CONSENSUS. There is no provision under the WHO's constitution and rules that allow an agreement to be reached by consensus. Again, the document you are considering is illegitimate.

I trust that you will take these points into account as you review Australia's potential acceptance of the changes to the IHRs – and also to the potential Pandemic Treaty that the WHO attempted to rush through (but failed) prior to 20 January 2025.

I emphatically oppose the acceptance of the changes to the IHRs, and the potential acceptance of the WHO's Pandemic Treaty. Both threaten our Australian sovereignty and way of life.

Yours faithfully

Kevin Walker
