



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COVID-19 2021 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the COVID-19 2021 pandemic response

Submission Number: 05

Date Authorised for Publication: 11 October 2021

From: [John Elliott](#)
To: [LA Committee - COVID19](#)
Subject: submission relevant to ACT 2021 pandemic response
Date: Tuesday, 5 October 2021 4:08:56 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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From



To
Select committee

I would like to bring your attention to the letter I received from the chief minister's office in reply to a letter I sent regarding access to Pfizer vaccine for the over 60s on 27th September 2021.

Firstly, it was erroneous on most the main points.
Secondly it was sent 1 day before NSW adopted the rollout to over 60s, and very shortly before ACT followed. In context all other states and territories had already made this provision. A friend of mine aptly observed "The left arm doesn't know what the right arm is doing".

The important point here is that the anti vacc cohort leap on government information that is not true, and use it to validate their conspiracy theories. It gets harder to refute claims that the government is lying to us when there is demonstrable proof they are.

The problem with sending out standard letters is they must be up-to-date AND they must address the questions asked. In my letter I pointed out that other states were providing Pfizer to over 60s, but this was completely ignored in the last paragraph.

This letter erred in the following matters -

- 1) "AstraZeneca vaccine is the preferred COVID-19 vaccine for people over 60 years".
No. Carefully reading the government advice Pfizer is the medically preferred vaccination in all age groups. Astra Zenica had been mandated to some cohorts of the over 60s because of the Pfizer shortage. This preference is based on efficacy.
- 2) "AstraZeneca vaccine vastly outweigh the risk of thrombocytopenia syndrome or TTS"
The obsession with TTS obscures the other Astra Zenica contraindications, the list of which has grown considerably larger. This has been well known for many months, so quoting TTS deliberately trivialises the risk.
- 3) The "underlying conditions" list which prioritises over 60s has also grown. "The most effective vaccination" ie Pfizer is recommended for people on this list.
- 4) The latest efficacy rating for Astra Zenica in relation to Covid D-strain is 61% (90 days after 2nd dose). This is a key reasons why over 60s who are statistically the most vulnerable group require an mRNA vaccine - for best possible protection.
- 5) "We are unable to accept requests or referrals for a specific vaccination that is not in

line with the above Commonwealth Government determination"

No. There was provision in Federal Government instructions for ACT to allow Pfizer to over 60s. Obviously the case, as other jurisdictions had demonstrated.

I understand that there is pressure managing the covid response, but really I found this interchange deceptive in the extreme.

JE
