



**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Hearing Date:** 29 April 2022

**Directed to:** Professor Joseph Ibrahim

**1. Ms Kealy Page no. 62**

*Question asked: Could you provide those to the committee also? It may be of assistance to us. ... the 10 that you referred to that you published would be great.*

**Response:**

I have attached 25 files which represent only some of my contributions towards addressing the response to COVID-19 pandemic in aged care, particularly residential aged care settings. The categories of contributions are:

1. Submissions to national and international inquiries
2. Research articles and academic discourse
3. White paper: addresses hypothetical scenarios about COVID-19 pandemic and aged care presenting key principles and recommendations base on my opinion as well as a cohort of professional medical, nursing and allied health colleagues. It is meant to help State and Federal authorities understand key issues and propose possible approaches or solutions.
4. Printed educational material. Residential Aged Care Communiqué is a periodical that use the medico-legal death investigations to improve resident quality of care and safety. As the editor I was responsible for these three periodicals distributed to approximately 7500 subscribers in aged care sector.
5. Podcast series on COVID-19: Prof Joe Covid 19 Aged Care Podcast. We completed 29 episodes in the first five months of 2020. I have included transcripts from three episodes related to mental health.
6. Media: The Conversation. I have included only three articles from one media outlet, that is 'The Conversation'. This an independent source of web based open access news and views, sourced from the academic and research community and delivered direct to the public. It is considered one of Australia's largest independent news and commentary sites.
7. I conclude with clarifying statements for the transcript

**My submissions to national and international inquiries.**

[1.1] Castan Centre of Human Rights Law and Prof Joe Aged Care Advocacy Group. A human rights analysis of the impacts of COVID-19 on persons in Australian Residential Aged Care Facilities. Submission to the United Nations Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons. February 2021.

[1.2] Precis of evidence Prof Ibrahim Submission to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. 5 Aug 2020

**My recent research and academic discourse about to COVID-19 in aged care**



- [2.1] Ibrahim JE. COVID-19 and residential aged care in Australia. *The Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing*. 2020;37(3)
- [2.2] Ibrahim JE. Lessons from COVID-19 for improving aged care in Australia. Nov 2020 issue 27: COVID and the plague of ideas. *Health Voices - Journal of the Consumers Health Forum of Australia*. Available at: <https://healthvoices.org.au/issues/nov-2020/lessons-from-the-covid-19-pandemic-for-improving-aged-care-in-australia/>
- [2.3] Cousins, S. (2020). Experts criticise Australia's aged care failings over COVID-19. *The Lancet*, 396(10259), 1322–1323. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)32206-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)32206-6)
- [2.4] Aitken GE, Holmes AL, Ibrahim JE. COVID-19 and residential aged care: priorities for optimising preparation and management of outbreaks. *Med J Aust*. 2021;214(1):6-8.e1. doi:10.5694/mja2.50892
- [2.5] Ibrahim JE. An equation to predict deaths of nursing home residents during a pandemic. *Nature Aging*. 2021;1(7):571-573
- [2.6] Ibrahim JE, Li Y, Brown C, McKee G, Eren H, Pham T. Risk stratification of nursing homes to plan COVID-19 responses: A case study of Victoria, Australia. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2021.207>
- [2.7] Ibrahim JE, Aitken G,. A Proactive Nursing Home Risk Stratification Model for Disaster Response: Lessons Learned from COVID19 to Optimize Resource Allocation. *J Am Med Dir Assoc*. 2021;S1525-8610(21)00645-9. doi:10.1016/j.jamda.2021.07.007
- [2.8] Ibrahim JE, Li Y, McKee G, et al. Characteristics of nursing homes associated with COVID-19 outbreaks and mortality among residents in Victoria, Australia. *Australas J Ageing*. 2021;10.1111/ajag.12982. doi:10.1111/ajag.12982
- [2.9] Gnanasambantham K, Aitken G, Morris B, Simionato J, Chua EH, Ibrahim JE. Developing a clinical screening tool for identifying COVID-19 infection in older people dwelling in residential aged care services. *Australas J Ageing*. 2021;40(1):48-57. doi:10.1111/ajag.12884
- [2.10] Pinto S, Wainer Z, Oliver S, Ibrahim JE. Reflections of executive staff using the safecare victoria COVID-19 clinical screening tool in a residential aged care service during the pandemic in Victoria, Australia. *Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing*. 2021 Sep 1;38(4):68-71. <https://doi.org/10.37464/2020.384.506>
- [2.11] Ibrahim JE. Chapter 6 Hard lessons Long-term care homes as hot spots in Australia In Kirley EA, Porter D, editors. *Outsmarting the Next Pandemic: What Covid-19 Can Teach Us*. Milton: Taylor & Francis Group; 2021.

### My white papers

- [3.1] and [3.2] E-mail verification of distribution of Working documents from aged care specialists about Covid-19 and RACS. Sent to State and Federal authorities involved in the emergency response to the pandemic. I have submitted one of the six 'white' papers—the other five are available on request.
- [3.3] COVID and RACS and Persons with Dementia Final Version 28 April 2020. White paper—this is the fifth of a series of six papers I produced with the assistance of colleagues.

### Printed educational material

Pandemic Declaration Accountability and Oversight Committee

Parliament of Victoria, Spring Street, East Melbourne, VIC 3002  
pdaoc@parliament.vic.gov.au



[4.1] Residential Aged Care Communiqué Apr-20 Vol 15 (1.2) Special Edition COVID

[4.2] Residential Aged Care Communiqué May-20 Vol 15 (2) COVID19 Update

[4.3] Residential Aged Care Communiqué Nov-20 Vol 15 (4) COVID19 Inquiries and Overview

### **Podcast series on COVID-19: Prof Joe Covid 19 Aged Care Podcast**

My team of volunteers completed a 29-episode podcast for the aged care sector about COVID-19 in March to June 2020. These are available at: <https://www.profjoe.com.au/agedcare>

Most pertinent episodes about mental health are:

[5.1] Ep 24: Mental Health and Well Being at times of Crisis Briefing

[5.2] Ep 25: Discussion with Dr Simon Brown-Greaves (Psychologist, Dispute Negotiator and Wellbeing and organisational consultant in leadership as well as the Director and CEO of FBG Group)

[5.3] Ep 26: Discussion with Dr Rosie Forlano (Psychiatrist)

### **Media: The Conversation**

[6.1] Ibrahim JE., Older Australians deserve more than the aged care royal commission's COVID-19 report delivers. October 2, 2020. The Conversation. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/older-australians-deserve-more-than-the-aged-care-royal-commissions-covid-19-report-delivers-147273>

[6.2] Ibrahim JE., The government has thrown another \$171 million at the problem. But a real plan for aged care has been missing all along. August 25, 2020. The Conversation. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/the-government-has-thrown-another-171-million-at-the-problem-but-a-real-plan-for-aged-care-has-been-missing-all-along-144929>

[6.3] Ibrahim JE., 4 steps to avert a full-blown coronavirus disaster in Victoria's aged care homes. July 24, 2020. The Conversation. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/4-steps-to-avert-a-full-blown-coronavirus-disaster-in-victorias-aged-care-homes-143177>

### **Clarification of transcript contents**

I would appreciate these additions to the transcript to better convey my thoughts. I considered the responses on these items lacked clarity.

1. The ongoing pressures on the aged care system and the impact on residents continues, with myself and other colleagues seeing extreme burnout with staff, distrust of the system. The accumulation of 2 years of deferred care, social isolation and loneliness makes older people more physically deconditioned and adds greater complexity in managing their needs, both social and psychological. The lack of regular face to face contact between aged care and



health care professionals, older people and their families means nuances of communication are lost. The consequences are a substantial negative impact on quality of life.

2. In response to whether or not my services were sought by health and aged care authorities—I offered my services to both State and Federal authorities to assist with their emergency response to the pandemic—I had sought an operational role to lead the aged care sector geriatric medicine response. Neither accepted my offers. Instead, I altered the original purpose of my part-time sabbatical from Ballarat Health (intended to address Human Rights and Elder abuse with international placements) to SaferCare Victoria in 2020 to work on COVID-19. I wish to thank their Centres of Clinical Excellence – Older People especially Allison Manning (Senior Project Officer) and Brett Morris (Manager) for hosting me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Ibrahim'.

Prof Joseph E Ibrahim MBBS, GradCertHE, PhD, FAFPHM, FRACP

16 May 2022

