

**Ministerial Response to
the referral of the Petition of Aly Cook
on
'A Royal Commission of Inquiry into the safety and efficacy of the
Covid vaccines'**

Presented to the House of Representatives

In accordance with Standing Order 380

Minister of Internal Affairs response to the referral of the Petition of Aly Cook on 10 May 2024

Introduction

- 1 I have carefully considered the Petition Committee's referral of the Petition of Aly Cook requesting a 'Royal Commission of Inquiry into the safety and efficacy of the Covid vaccines'.
- 2 I welcome the Committee's referral of this petition and thank the petitioner for bringing this matter to the Government's attention.
- 3 Below is my response to the referral of the Petition in accordance with Standing Order 380.

Petitioner's request

- 4 The Petition requests 'that the House of Representatives call for a Royal Commission of Inquiry in the safety and efficacy of Covid-19 vaccine use in New Zealand'.
- 5 The reason for the petition is stated as follows: '68429 adverse events have been reported after Covid-19 vaccines. This includes 3688 serious events including heart attack, myocarditis, pericarditis & spontaneous abortion. The vaccines were advertised as safe and effective. I believe there is insufficient research into mRNA vaccine injuries. I believe there have been more adverse reactions reported after Covid-19 vaccines than other medicines and that it is untrue that they are effective. I believe it is time for an inquiry'.

Ministerial response

- 6 The Minister of Internal Affairs does not consider that a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccination use in New Zealand should be established, as there is an existing Royal Commission considering these matters.
- 7 The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Lessons Learned from Aotearoa New Zealand's Response to COVID-19 That Should Be Applied in Preparation for a Future Pandemic (the Royal Commission) was established on 9 December 2022.
- 8 On 26 August 2024, Cabinet agreed the terms of reference for Phase 2 of the Royal Commission. The scope for Phase 2 of the Royal Commission includes the use of vaccines in response to COVID-19, specifically:
 - 8.1 vaccine mandates;
 - 8.2 the approval of specific COVID-19 vaccines; and

- 8.3 vaccine safety, including the monitoring and reporting of adverse reactions.
- 9 The legislative, regulatory, and operational settings required to support New Zealand's public health response to a pandemic, relating to the regulatory approval of, and the making available and mandating of, vaccines and other pharmaceutical and testing measures are within the Royal Commission's scope.

Conclusion

- 10 As a Royal Commission of Inquiry has already been established to consider the matters raised in the petition, there is no need to establish a new inquiry.