

Council for the National Interest

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May 2023 Newsletter

Welcome Members and Supporters:

Thank you for your ongoing support and financial contributions enabling the CNI to present challenging and relevant forums with speakers of note. In this issue of our irregular newsletter we publicise some aspects of social commentary missing from main stream media coverage.

Forum:

We are pleased to announce the next CNI Forum will be held on Sunday, 21st May 2023, 2.30pm at the Royal Perth Yacht Club, Australia II Drive, Crawley 6009.

Keynote speaker is Dr Gary Johns on the topic of - **THE VOICE: What does it really mean?**

Gary has previously presented at our CNI Forum, last being 20 Nov 2012, on the 2013 Federal election.

The VOICE 2023 referendum:

Voters are being treated abysmally by the main stream media and the Labor Government led by PM Anthony Albanese and his cohort of Greens, Teals and disruptive Liberals who are determined the NO case vote will be drowned out by a cacophony of emotional appeals. Interfering with the Constitution in such a manner is totally irresponsible when the potential change could render Australia ungovernable.

By Janet Albrechtsen, The Australian:

After the Garma Festival last year, constitutional conservatives couldn't possibly stay aboard a voice train that, via a new chapter in the Constitution, created an untested, poorly explained, race-based body with privileged access to parliament and all arms of executive government, with a final destination of co-government. After Anthony Albanese released that first set of proposed words for the voice, Craven and Leeser didn't sound like constitutional conservatives. Leeser barely said a word yet the constitutional implications were profound. Craven chose to insult lawyers who raised serious questions about the inconsistency between those words and the assurance in the Calma-Langton report that the voice would be non-justiciable.

After Garma, many wondered whether Craven and Leeser were intended to be "useful idiots" from the start, to be dumped by the radical voice activists when no longer needed.

What was clear after Garma – and what these two lawyers should have known – is that the group of legal academics behind the Garma wording have long had big and radical ambitions about what a constitutional voice should look like. If Craven and Leeser knew that, too, they didn't let on.

Had they helped Australians to understand then what many know now, they would have made important contributions as constitutional conservatives.

The voice was, and is, intended to reach into every area of policy. It will require a huge, top-heavy bureaucracy. It will hogtie the running of good government, and the High Court will have the final say over all of this.

None of this is a surprise. A group of vocal, and influential Voice academics have long held the view that the accepted legal principle laid out by the High Court in *Coe v Commonwealth*, that the Australian Crown held sole and exclusive sovereignty in Australia, was wrong. Sovereignty, they have said repeatedly, was never ceded and is at most shared between Australia and its Indigenous people.

In a process led by law professor Megan Davis, this belief was enshrined in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Advocates of this co-sovereignty model knew exactly how the voice could be used to create a form of co-government. It wasn't a secret. They wrote about it.

This was no modest tweak to the Constitution. This model was laid out most recently in a paper written by legal academics led by Gabrielle Appleby, who works closely with Davis at the University of NSW.

They went for broke with a co-sovereignty model of the Voice and won, despite last-minute wobbles from Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus. This current version is hardly different from the Garma wording, retaining two features critical to creating a new and radical co-governance system in Australia.

The first is the Voice's constitutional right to make representations to executive government.

The second feature sought and won by the radicals is a key role for the courts with parliamentary supremacy tossed aside.

These two factors lead to a massive transfer of power from parliament and executive government to the courts, thus cementing constitutional power in the Voice. It is true that in recent weeks, Craven and Leeson have raised concerns. But where on earth have these so-called constitutional conservatives been?

Even more troubling is what they are planning to do at the referendum. Craven says he will vote Yes even though under the current model **“frustrating legal challenges will multiply like cockroaches”**.

Leeson’s position is even more incoherent. Leeson put forward a model at the National Press Club last week to delete the second sentence of the proposed amendment, thereby vesting the power of design of the Voice’s remit and powers more clearly in parliament. This doesn’t alter the fact a body with special group right privileges, not shared by ordinary Australians, will be entrenched in our Constitution.

Though Leeson, like Craven, may have started as a constitutional conservative on the Voice, he cannot lay claim to that title any more. Not after Garma. Particularly not after this week, when Leeson conceded that even if his desired model never saw the light of day, he would campaign for a Yes vote for the government’s model.

Leeson, like Craven, appears so emotionally invested in the Voice that he will vote for it no matter whether it effectively installs co-government instead of our current single sovereignty model.

That’s not standing up for principle. It’s giving in to a vibe.

Some of us remember the Constitutional Convention in 1998 when Leeson described the republican push as “the zenith of a generation who value style over substance, to whom touchy-feely, kumbaya motherhood notions are more important than results”. How times change.

By Janet Albrechtsen, The Australian Part 1 of 3

I have embarked on this job by speaking with several prominent silks and other lawyers. Hopefully others will follow. We should not sleepwalk into what I believe will be Australia’s worst constitutional disaster in a practical sense, without proper analysis and debate. Drinking the Kool-Aid is irresponsible.

The most important sentence of the Albanese Amendment

The Albanese Amendment consists of these three sentences to be inserted into the Constitution.

(1) There shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

(2) The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to parliament and the executive government on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

(3) The parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to the composition, functions, powers and procedures of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

Of these sentences, the second is easily the most important. It sets out the purpose and functions of the Voice, and controls the scope of the legislative powers conferred on parliament by the third sentence. The words “subject to this Constitution” contained in the third sentence, as well as the general principles of statutory interpretation, mean that the second sentence controls and limits the meaning of the third. This may seem technical but it is critical because it means the **High Court, not parliament**, will be the ultimate decision-maker on the key functions, powers and procedures of the Voice.

Janet Albrechtsen continues her arguments against the Voice in The Australian parts 2 and 3.

National Civic Council Article: Australian Law Reform Commission Recommendations:

Modern Australians have always had a choice as to what type of education they could set before their children. Parents could choose either a faith-based education or a secular, state-based education.

However, today the state is seeking to remove the faith from faith-based education, thus removing that parental choice.

The recent recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) concerning faith-based schools are a destructive attack on those schools. The recommendation to remove faith-based schools’ ability to hire staff who hold and practise their faith, will remove the faith from faith-based schools in Australia.

This extraction of faith from faith-based schools will turn those schools into private versions of secular, state-based schools. There will be no difference between the sort of education offered in the faith-depleted faith-based schools and that offered in state schools.

Why would the state seek to do this? One wonders whether the state is worried about the growing popularity

of the faith-based schooling sector?

The teachers and staff of faith-based schools embody the essence of their schools. They exemplify the philosophy, beliefs, and practices of their faith in their schools. They live by its teachings; they pass on the treasures of their faith in their words and by their lives. They are the living embodiment of the faith they teach.

It is impossible to have a faith-based school without faith-based teachers.

40 per cent of Australian parents with school-aged children choose a faith-based, value-laden form of pedagogy. They pay for this education with fees, just as they also pay for and supply food and shelter for their children. These parents want a faith-based, value-laden education for their children. They aspire to an education that will teach right from wrong and why right is right and why wrong is wrong.

These parents believe that there is a “higher authority” to whom they owe their allegiance and from whom they derive the values of right and wrong. They deem the “higher authority” to be a higher authority than the state.

Almighty God is that “higher authority”. He is sovereignly way higher than the individuals who operate the levers of the state. It is God who has given us our life and to whom we all must give account.

Parents who do not want a faith-based education for their children, get that option in bucketloads by means of the nation’s plethora of taxpayer-funded state schools.

While all Australians live in accordance with the lawful requirements of the state, we understand that, since the days of Magna Carta, the state has its limits. There are places in our lives that the state should never invade.

The state has its legitimate sphere of influence in the civic arena to uphold the rule of law and to protect society from evil. Similarly, the family also has its legitimate sphere of influence in the private familial arena for the raising and the nurturing of children. The family is the setting for teaching children the spiritual and social virtues, and the difference between good and evil.

The state is a political entity. The state does not determine what is good and what is evil. That is the province of the “higher authority”, who has set the bar for what is right and wrong.

To have the state dominate all education is to politicise education. Politicising education makes education of the young a tool of the state.

Such education becomes subject to the state’s political preferences and dogmas as it propounds its own currently convenient politics, morals, and values. Such monopolising of education initiates the process of morphing a society into the dystopia of Huxley’s *Brave New World*.

For this reason, it has always been appropriate to separate the defining of morality and that of good and evil from the responsibility of the state.

Should the Commonwealth accept the ALRC’s recommendations, all schools will be required to conform to the state’s legislated, secularist, neo-Marxist view of the world – a view devoid of spirituality, religious beliefs and objective morality.

Removing faith from faith-based schools will remove difference and dissent from the state’s promulgated educational point of view. It disintegrates the possibility of there being another worldview, independent of the state.

Historically, schooling in Australia was initiated by Christian churches. Anglicans, Presbyterians, Catholics, Lutherans and various “dissenting” religious groups brought schooling to this nation. The state later played the role of educational catchup, with the advantage of using public funds, to establish its own system.

In 2023, the state’s latest ploy via the ALRC is not simply to play catchup; its aim is to eliminate the competition.

Education and schooling are for the physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual development of children. Education is not a toy for the state to dominate and manipulate towards soft, neo-Marxist ends. Real educational alternatives must be available for parents to choose from, as they are the ones responsible for the raising of their children.

The ALRC has made an outrageous, direct attack upon the school system that has been a successful part of the Australian educational landscape for 225 years.

Postscript: The ALRC was scheduled to publish a review report by 21st April 2023.

Attorney General Mark Dreyfus has extended the report date to 31st Dec 2023.

<https://www.alrc.gov.au/inquiry-categories/anti-discrimination-law/>

COVID-19, Who is going to be held to account?

Western Australians, along with the rest of the Western world, suffered the consequences of imposed conditions from sources such as the United Nations, the World Health Organisation, the World Economic Forum and other non-elected bodies imposing masks, isolation, separation, lockdowns and border restrictions. The WA government imposed emergency police state conditions to the extent of forcing its citizens to vaccinate with an experimental drug with devastating results. The following report compiled by Rebekah Barnett with Western Australian government vaccine safety data highlights the need for a comprehensive investigation into the actions by government bureaucrats and politicians.

Dystopian Down Under: By Rebekah Barnett, 14 March 2023;

This is an extract from Rebekah's lengthy report:

Western Australian government finally releases its 2021 vaccine safety data: vaccines have been pulled from the market for far less than this. The 'hermit state' had almost no Covid in 2021 due to its extreme zero Covid policies, so WA vaccine data provides unique insight into vaccine effects absent the confounder of Covid infection.

The Western Australian government has finally released its 2021 vaccine safety surveillance report, 6 months behind its promised publication date of August 2022. The equivalent national report was released in September of last year. WA Govt has offered no reason why they sat on this report for so long before publishing it, but the attitude of Minister for Health, Amber-Jade Sanderson gives a clue.

When petitioned last year by thousands of Western Australians to publicly release the health advice on which WA Govt based their extreme pandemic policies, Sanderson not only refused to make the health advice freely available, but countered that in asking for transparency from the government, petitioners were somehow seeking to, "undermine the Government's efforts to keep Western Australians safe." So much for the Labor government's much touted promise of 'gold standard transparency.'

Unique to WA vaccine safety surveillance data from 2021 is the fact that vaccine effects can be easily differentiated from Covid infection effects. There was almost no Covid in WA in 2021, due to WA's extreme zero Covid policies.

In contrast, almost four million doses of Covid vaccination were administered to the population during 2021. The Covid jab rollout began on 22 February 2021 in Western Australia. You can see when it began.

(Figure 2)

The diagram is a stark reality of the effect of experimental gene technology injection "vaccine."

In 2021, adverse events following immunisation (AEFIs) with the Covid vaccines were reported at almost **24x the rate** (per 100,000 doses) of AEFIs for all other vaccines combined. The report refers to this phenomenon as an "exponential increase." For the full and comprehensive report refer to [Rebekahbarnett.substack.com/p/west-australian-government-finally](https://rebekahbarnett.substack.com/p/west-australian-government-finally)

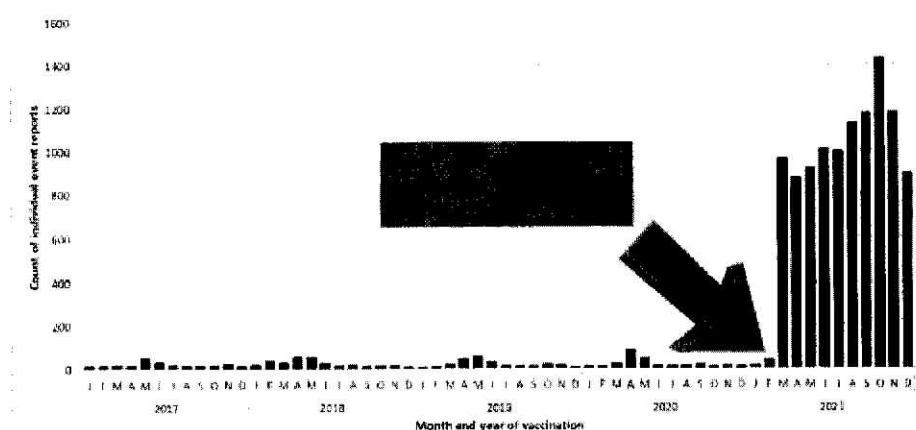


Figure 2: Adverse events following immunisation reported to WAVSS by month, 2017-2021, excluding active surveillance reports for routine vaccination adverse events.

Western Australian Vaccine Safety Surveillance - Annual Report 2021