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The Uncensored News

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Farmers Hit with Fines as

Net Zero Escalates:

Power Lines vs Property Rights

By MICHAEL ARBON

■

Michael Arbon is an Australian commentator covering finance, politics, liberty, faith, family and national issues. He hosts Arbon About Australia and RCR, where he explores current events and the ideas shaping the country.

Twelve Victorian farmers recently received fines in the mail from their state government. They were penalised for locking their own gates and denying authorised officers access to their farmland as part of planning work for VNI West.

VNI West is a proposed high-voltage transmission line that will run roughly 240 kilometres through western Victoria, with a preferred easement 70 metres wide.

The project is just one part of a much larger transmission build-out. The Australian Energy Market Operator's Integrated System Plan (ISP) estimates that around 6,000 kilometres of new transmission



lines will be needed across the national grid by 2050.

Marnoo sheep stud farmer Trent Carter says he won't pay the fine and he'll fight it in court. Trent does not stand alone. Farmers across western Victoria, and Australians in both the city and the country, are increasingly questioning what the transition to net zero will mean for their land, livelihoods and communities.

And we should remember what "agricultural land" actually means. A farm is not simply a business. It is a way of life. For many families, it is their home. A home worked, loved and handed down through generations.

Transmission lines don't simply consume productive farmland or change the landscape. They intrude into the place where a family lives, works and raises their children.

Australia's food and fibre production is too important to take for granted.

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THE LIES OF DR ANTHONY FAUCI

Private Communications vs Public Messaging

SEE PAGES 8 & 9

THE LIGHT AUSTRALIA

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Image courtesy of Bob Moran <https://twitter.com/bobscartoons>*Continued from page 1.*

ABARES reports that the gross value of Australian agricultural production reached a record \$104.6 billion in 2025–26. The National Farmers' Federation has long cited another remarkable statistic: the average Australian farmer produces enough food to feed around 600 people.

Yet the scale of land that may be required for the energy transition is rarely discussed.

A Victorian Government policy directions paper from 2022 made a remarkable observation, describing that achieving full energy decarbonisation using only onshore renewables was an “implausible prospect”. It estimated that achieving 60GW from onshore wind and large-scale solar “could require up to 70 per cent of agricultural land, or four times the area of Greater Melbourne.”

For someone in the city, a transmission line may be something they drive past.

For a farming family, it can run through the middle of their home, their livelihood and their legacy.

Our Farmers deserve far more respect than a line drawn across a government planning map.

This issue goes way beyond land. What is the true cost of this transition?

Wind and solar generation may use renewable sources of energy. But the infrastructure required to harness them is not. Wind turbines, solar panels, batteries and thousands of kilometres of high-voltage transmission lines all require land, materials, manufacturing (often offshore), and enormous investment, much of it supported by taxpayer subsidies and guarantees.

Traditional coal, gas and hydro generation, as well as nuclear power—which remains prohibited in Australia—generate enormous amounts of electricity from relatively concentrated sites. Their fuel is energy dense, and much of our existing transmission network was built around the stable, baseload generation model.

But a system dependent on wind and solar is fundamentally different. Generation must be built where the wind blows and the sun shines, often hundreds or thousands of kilometres from where electricity is consumed.

That means more transmission lines, more easements, more batteries, and more communities being asked—or compelled via threats of fines and prosecution—to accommodate it.

The forced transition to net zero has consequences for electricity prices, reliability, taxpayers, the environment and, as these Victorian farmers and landholders are discovering, property rights and individual liberty.

Farmers along VNI West and right around Australia are taking

a stand. Farmers Fightback, a grassroots movement that began in Wimmera, has gained significant support.

The upcoming Victorian state election will put VNI West firmly on the political agenda and place pressure on the Victorian Labor Government to defend its position.

For communities along the proposed route, the election offers a clear choice about whether the project should proceed. The Victorian Liberal and National parties, as well as One Nation, have pledged to scrap VNI West if elected.

The message from these parties is clear: VNI West is not inevitable. Voters can still determine its future.

We know that governments have a terrible record of picking winners.

Perhaps the best approach for all Australians would be to adopt an energy-source-agnostic policy.

Repeal the ban on nuclear power. Approve proposed coal and gas generation projects. For the benefit of those in the city and the country, let each technology compete on its merits, and let consumers and markets determine the energy mix.

Let our farmers continue to do what they love: producing the best food and fibre in the world.

■ **Connect via Michael Arbon's Linktree at <https://linktr.ee/michaelarbs>**

Four Years of Uncensored News:

The Light Australia Celebrates Its Anniversary and Its Place in the Nation's Publication Heritage

Issue 26 marks *The Light Australia's* (TLA) fourth anniversary—a milestone made possible by our commitment to printing the uncensored news and by the extraordinary team of volunteers who give their time, skills and energy to every edition. What began as an independent Western Australian publication has grown into a nationwide effort supported by readers who value

transparency, integrity and open public conversation. Since our first issue in October 2022, we have printed and distributed a total of 3,568,000 copies across Australia.

TLA preserved as part of Australia's publication heritage—TLA lodges a digital copy of each issue with the National Library of Australia, as part of the legislative requirements for Australian publications. This digital

copy then becomes part of the National Library's catalogue and is available for download from the online Trove collection of library resources. Being part of this catalogue is more than just an obligatory process to us: it makes *The Light Australia* more broadly accessible; forms part of the 'snapshot' of life in Australia right now and helps to preserve our content for future generations to read.

Celebrating 4 years in publication.

Thank you to all of our hardworking volunteers for helping The Light Australia reach this milestone.

The Influence of Lobby Groups and NGOs on Our Political System

By **STEVEN TRIPP**

■ *Steven Tripp is a political commentator who has been internationally published, most notably in **The Spectator**.*

Ask any politician and they will tell you about the countless lobbyists that swarm within our federal and state parliaments.

Lobby groups and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) spearhead policy change by supplying expertise, mobilising support and pressing politicians. Their impact can at times be beneficial, yet questions of scale, access and accountability arise when small organisations sway outcomes affecting unsuspecting voters.

A clear example is the aerial culling of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park. The Invasive Species Council (ISC), a non-government, Victorian incorporated association with only 131 members and a modest 34,000 supporters on



Photo by pexels-christina&peter

The episode illustrates how well-organised lobby groups can set agendas despite their lack of members or overall support. Unlike elected representatives, they face no direct voter accountability.

Facebook, has led the campaign to reduce wild-horse numbers.

Despite operating outside NSW and representing a minuscule fraction of the state's more than five

million voters, the group has helped drive policy that aims to reduce the total brumby population in the park to 3,000 by 2027.

ISC CEO Jack Gough has been

a leading public voice, arguing that feral brumbies damage fragile alpine ecosystems, waterways and native species. Gough has defended aerial shooting, stating in July 2026, "we have full confidence that national park staff are undertaking these important operations professionally, safely and humanely, as has been confirmed by numerous independent reviews, including by the RSPCA and vets."

Meanwhile, Gough's close personal ties have drawn scrutiny. Gough's wife, Emily Dyball, publicly lists on her LinkedIn profile her role as an environment adviser to NSW Environment Minister Penny Sharpe, who is the minister with the executive responsibility for the culling.

Despite the influence of the ISC, multi-party opposition exists. Nationals MPs, such as Wes Fang and Sarah Mitchell, alongside the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, have advocated against the cull. Independent Mark Latham has labelled the cull as

a 'barbaric practice'.

Emma Hurst of the Animal Justice Party he said, "Aerial shooting is ruthless and inhumane. When the last Government-sanctioned aerial shooting of brumbies took place at Guy Fawkes, horses were found days later still alive with bullet wounds. This is the sort of bloodbath we will likely see again."

Despite this resistance within the parliament, the reduction programme continues.

The episode illustrates how well-organised lobby groups can set agendas despite their lack of members or overall support. Unlike elected representatives, they face no direct voter accountability. Membership figures, monetary donations and personal networks remain lightly scrutinised.

Clearly, big questions remain on the influence of these groups.

■ *For more information visit www.commandingthenarrative.com*

The Quiet Takeover of Australian Agriculture

By **BRONWYN HOLM**

■ *Bronwyn Holm is the founder of **Earthfood®**, a certified organic living soil microbial company working to restore soil function, food security and growing independence.*

Most farmers are still watching fertiliser prices, commodity markets and rainfall. But while producers focus on the familiar, something far more significant is happening quietly under the marketplace. Australia's financial architecture, environmental markets, data systems and agricultural sector are beginning to converge and it's happening without broad consultation or

permission.

This raises a simple question: **why is Australia investing in this now, and why are agriculture, carbon markets and natural capital suddenly appearing in the same conversation?** The answer lies in incentives. Carbon projects, natural capital accounting and digital financial infrastructure are being built in parallel, and each one increasingly touches farmland. More than 2,800 carbon projects now operate under the ACCU scheme, and global investment in nature based assets continues to accelerate. As these markets expand, they create new forms of value tied not to production, but to environmental assets associated with the land.

Farmers must ask whether this convergence ultimately strengthens productive agriculture or whether long term value will shift toward financial and environmental instruments that sit on top of the land. If family farms become financially weaker while institutional investors grow stronger, what does that mean for the future ownership and purpose of Australian farmland? And who then owns these instruments? Twenty years is nothing, but it will be everything.

This is not a theoretical concern. Institutional investors already manage large agricultural portfolios designed around multi stream returns: production, carbon, conservation and natural capital.

Long term carbon contracts can shape land use for decades. Digital settlement systems, including early pilots like Project Acacia, signal how future financial infrastructure may integrate environmental assets directly into settlement and investment flows. Farmers will need 'rocket science intel' to work the farm in the very near future.

So, Australia faces a serious twenty year question: **who will own the nation's productive land, and what incentives will determine how that land is used?** The answer touches foreign investment, carbon markets, natural capital, family farm succession, institutional capital and the financial systems being built around them.

Farmers need leverage, not lectures. That means stronger direct to consumer pathways like FarmFinder.au, and alternative capital options such as IIF.today, which offer ways to support farm projects without relying solely on banks.

If the foundations of agriculture are being rebuilt, farmers deserve transparency and a seat at the table before the future of Australian land is decided for them.

■ <https://www.farmfinder.au/>
■ <https://yourearthfood.com.au>
■ <https://yourearthfood.com.au/blogs/grow/every-meal-is-a-farm-blessed-thank-you>

Australian Dad Awarded \$4.5 Million for Covid Vaccine Injury

Melbourne father of two Chris Nemeth has reportedly received what multiple media outlets describe as Australia's largest individual COVID-19 vaccine injury compensation award to date — \$4.5 million. Nemeth developed chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, a rare autoimmune neurological disorder, following his first AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in July 2021.

By **TRIALSITE NEWS**

■ *This article was published by **The Defender Children's Health Defense's News & Views Website**. This article was published by **The Defender** on July 22, 2026.*

Melbourne father of two Chris Nemeth has reportedly received what multiple media outlets describe as Australia's largest individual COVID-19 vaccine injury compensation award to date, highlighting both the rare occurrence of serious vaccine-related injuries and ongoing concerns over the country's compensation process.

Nemeth developed chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP), a rare autoimmune neurological disorder affecting the peripheral nerves, following his first AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in July 2021.

According to Australian media reports, his condition was accepted under the federal COVID-19 Vaccine Claims Scheme, requiring years of medical evaluations and extensive documentation before compensation was offered.

Nemeth has previously described

relearning how to walk after the illness and now requires ongoing immunoglobulin infusions.

Journalist Aisling O'Loughlin recently reported that Nemeth's settlement totaled approximately 6.5 million Australian dollars (US\$4.5 million), describing it as the largest known individual payout under Australia's COVID-19 Vaccine Claims Scheme.

However, neither Services Australia nor the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has publicly confirmed the reported settlement amount.

Australia established its no-fault COVID-19 Vaccine Claims Scheme in 2021 to compensate individuals who experienced serious adverse events considered likely linked to COVID-19 vaccination.

The program closed to new applications in September 2024 but continues processing existing

claims. According to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), nearly 5,000 claims were lodged, with approximately 560 resulting in compensation totaling more than AU\$40 million (US\$28 million), while hundreds of claims remain unresolved.

Nemeth's case has become emblematic of broader criticism surrounding the compensation program. ABC investigations have documented claimants describing lengthy delays, complex administrative requirements and significant financial and emotional hardship while awaiting decisions.

Australian officials have acknowledged the need to evaluate lessons learned from the COVID-19-era program as they consider a broader permanent no-fault vaccine compensation framework.

While public health authorities continue to conclude that serious adverse events following

COVID-19 vaccination remain rare and that vaccination delivered substantial public health benefits during the pandemic, Nemeth's case underscores the importance of maintaining transparent, efficient and credible compensation systems for the small number of individuals whose injuries are determined to be vaccine-related.

■ *Originally published by **TrialSite News**. **TrialSite News** is the only digital media dedicated 100% to transparent and open coverage of medical research and developments from around the globe.*

■ *This article was published by **The Defender Children's Health Defense's News & Views Website** under Creative Commons license CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. Please consider subscribing to **The Defender** or donating to **Children's Health Defense**. This article was published by **The Defender** on July 22, 2026.*

Remarkable Disconnect Between Western Leftist Elites and the Socialist World

By **DR ALAN MORAN, PhD**

■ *Dr Alan Moran, PhD is a noted economist, previous Director of the Deregulation Unit at the Institute of Public Affairs 1996-2014, senior official in Australia's Productivity Commission and Director of the Commonwealth's Office of Regulation Review.*

There is a remarkable disconnect between the leftist elites in Western economies and those in the nominally socialist world. The latter have kept wealth creation front and centre, though not always successfully, while in the former, leftist elites have become the permanently outraged, often seeking policy changes that undermine economic growth.

Deng Xiaoping foreshadowed pragmatic socialism in 1962 with his quip, 'It doesn't matter if a cat is black or white, if it catches mice it's a good cat.'

Such apostasy to core communist doctrine led to his being reassigned as a rural factory labourer under Mao, but free markets and private property have been the core of Chinese economic policy since 1979.

Such policies, however, had no support among Vietnamese communist elites when, with massive assistance from the USSR and China, they came to power in North Vietnam in 1956 after



London May Day

defeating the French, and in all of Vietnam in 1975 following the withdrawal of the US. Although enjoying popular support, the communist elites never dared test this in free elections.

But mass refugee emigration from Vietnam, together with its economic stagnation, brought a pragmatic 'rediscovery' of the Marxist theology that a capitalist stage must precede socialism. Đổi Mới (renovation) changes in 1986 introduced a market economy, property rights, the right to employ others, and the dismantling of collectivised agriculture. Since then, Vietnam's economic growth has averaged 7 per cent a year. In addition, the elites in China and Vietnam take great pride in

Adams even said, 'There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide.' It would be a tragedy for freedom if these dark forebodings were to be correct.

their nations' histories and tend to embellish those histories.

Contrast this with the causes that the left has embraced, often violently, in the West. Over the past half century, we have seen rage migrate from unilateral nuclear disarmament (which would have likely brought a communist Western Europe), to prioritising the environment over income creation. A development on top of this has been extreme Marxist radicals like the Japanese Red Army, the Italian Red Brigades, the German Red Army Faction, France's Action Directe, and the Weathermen in the US.

In addition, we have seen militant LGBTQ+ activists, and, in a misplaced response to the death of George Floyd, new race-based

laws. Most recently, we have seen leftist groups allied with Islamic activists against Israel (and Jews generally), a phenomenon that is all the more bizarre because communists and the LGBTQ+ community are clearly at risk where the Islamic regimes they support come to power.

While those spearheading hostile reactions to the status quo in capitalist countries were small minorities, they have often enjoyed broader sympathy from within the political establishment.

A suicidal tendency of democracies to skirt self-mutilation with laws that expropriate property was evident in Australia when the Howard government worked with the NSW and Queensland Labor governments to expropriate the value of farming properties to abate greenhouse gas emissions using regulations on land clearing.

Environmental activism has also brought subsidies to renewable energy, which are de facto penalties on conventional energy supplies and cause wild swings in price. In Australia, these price oscillations include a marked decrease in prices in the latest quarter due to subsidised batteries. But, as Mr Albanese should have learned with the failure of his cunning plan to reduce electricity prices by \$275 per annum, such price interventions can be no more than transitory.

It is anomalous that ostensibly communist East Asian governments are practising a more robust defence of individual property rights than is found—with the possible exception of Donald Trump's America—anywhere in the developed Western world. And even in the US, bequests from wealthy individuals are funding hundreds of activist bodies to promote measures designed to retard growth, and, with the activist Environmental Law Institute, training thousands of American judges on climate-change issues to distort legal decision-making.

China and Vietnam, though enjoying far fewer freedoms than those still remaining in the West, are reaping a reward in terms of ongoing increases in living standards driven by the market freedoms that most Western nations—including Australia—are restraining.

Key US Constitutional framers Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson were acutely aware of the danger that populist democracy could eat itself. Adams even said, 'There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide.' It would be a tragedy for freedom if these dark forebodings were to be correct.

■ *This article was published in the Spectator Australia, 30 July 2026.*

I Couldn't Believe What Happened at the Opening of Australia's War Memorial

What should have been a proud national moment became a sobering reminder of just how far Canberra has drifted from the people it claims to represent.

By **SENATOR RALPH BABET**

Earlier this year, I attended the opening of the newly renovated and expanded Australian War Memorial. The project cost Australian taxpayers around half a billion dollars.

Normally when government spends that kind of money you expect a monument to waste, inefficiency and bureaucratic self-congratulation. But I must say, on this occasion, I was pleasantly surprised. The memorial is magnificent. It is a fitting tribute to those Australians who served and sacrificed for this nation.

What a pity the opening



ceremony was not. What should have been a solemn and unifying occasion quickly descended into farce. Those gathered to honour our war dead were forced to endure a Welcome to Country that seemed to go on forever. It felt to be around 15 minutes long.

Curiously, the Welcome to Country was delivered by a man introduced to those assembled

as an Aboriginal elder but who appeared about as indigenous as a Scandinavian ski instructor.

His monologue on the rightness of Indigenous culture went on.... and on....and on.

What was billed as a welcome increasingly felt like a humiliation ritual. Everyone assembled was expected to nod along and enthusiastically agree that they

were on someone else's land, and second-class citizens at that.

I eventually gave up and walked outside. Life is finite.

There are only so many minutes a person can sacrifice to the ideological theatre so enjoyed by self-flagellating lefties before self-preservation, not to mention self-respect, kicks in.

But as if all of that wasn't bad enough... then came the truly astonishing part...

At the opening of Australia's War Memorial, a memorial built to honour Australians who fought, bled and died for this country, they didn't play the Australian national anthem. Think about that.

A ceremony to open the newly renovated Australian War Memorial began with a tribute to Indigenous Australians but completely skipped the National Anthem.

Our diggers, the men who died for us, are rolling in their graves.

The whole unfortunate charade was the perfect symbol of modern Canberra, a political class so consumed by fashionable ideology that it increasingly struggles to recognise the nation it's supposed to represent.

The opening of the beautifully renovated War Memorial was a classic illustration of what so many Australians already know. Canberra isn't merely out of touch. It's completely broken.

That's why the Albanese Government must go and the weak woke Coalition must be banished to history. Only then can the important work of salvaging what remains of our country begin.

■ *First published 25 June 2026.*

Republished with permission.

■ *Senator Ralph Babet, Senator for Victoria, United Australia Party*
<https://senatorbabet.com.au/>

Victoria's Farmland Pays for Green Energy

By **DON WANT, PhD**

■ *Don Want, PhD is author of **Environmental Effects on Health: The Generation of Ignorance and Undone Science.***

Renewable energy was supposed to be the cheap option. Wind and solar now undercut coal on sticker price per megawatt-hour. But the full bill, the one that runs steel corridors through Victoria's farmland, tells a different story.

The first problem is how the comparison is made. Economists have long argued the standard "levelised cost" metric is unsuited to comparing intermittent wind and solar with dispatchable coal, because it doesn't value the ability

So, we have a typical scenario: the government and industry vs the farmers. The public, farmers included, is expected to foot the bill.

to generate on demand. The numbers themselves are hostage to assumptions: a published review of a dozen cost studies found wildly inconsistent estimates across methodologies, making cross-technology comparisons far shakier than headline figures suggest.

Then come the hidden costs of intermittency. When wind drops or cloud passes, something must fill

the gap; usually coal or gas plants kept idling, burning fuel while producing nothing, a real non-green cost that standard price comparisons often exclude. Such plants cannot be switched on and off: they must be kept warm and idling so they can be ramped up quickly.

The biggest line item runs through the countryside, and Victoria's own numbers make

the point sharply. AEMO's cost submissions put recently approved 500kV transmission projects, including VNI West itself, at \$8.5 to \$11.3 million per kilometre; well above typical international benchmarks of \$2–3 million per kilometre for equivalent lines. AEMO attributes this gap partly to the cost of community and landholder opposition the project has generated. VNI West's own budget has climbed from \$3.9 billion to as much as \$7.6–11.4 billion in barely two years. And the land absorbs further damage on top of that.

The tension runs deeper: the same transition that needs corridors also wants the paddocks themselves, with solar farms

making similar claims on productive land elsewhere in the state.

None of this proves coal wins. CSIRO's own modelling still finds renewables cheapest overall, even with backup and transmission costs factored in. Some energy analysts contest this conclusion; it's not settled. But the claim that green energy enjoys an obvious financial edge quietly glosses over the corridors, the idle plant and the sacrificed farmland. So, we have a typical scenario: the government and industry vs the farmers. The public, farmers included, is expected to foot the bill.

■ *Visit environmentalhealtheffects.substack.com*

Chris Bowen Is Trying to Lock Australia into a Net Zero Future

The longer Labor is in power, the harder it will be for the Coalition to unpick renewables from the grid.

By **DR ALAN MORAN, PhD**

■ *Dr Alan Moran, PhD is a noted economist, previous Director of the Deregulation Unit at the Institute of Public Affairs 1996–2014, senior official in Australia's Productivity Commission and Director of the Commonwealth's Office of Regulation Review.*

On Wednesday, Energy Minister Chris Bowen used a National Press Club address to announce another subsidy scheme for renewable energy.

This was intended to cover factory rooftop installations of solar panels, bringing them into the Small-Scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) that applies to household rooftops.

It is a scheme that provides a subsidy paid by other consumers (but not the aluminium smelters) for up to \$40 per megawatt-hour of the energy price. The subsidy is paid up-front based on the notional value of the electricity over the installation's life. Introduced in 2011, it has long been considered one of the least useful subsidy measures. Indeed Rod Sims, who served as Chairman of the ACCC, later recommended its early scrapping largely because it unfairly forces mainly lower-income people to pay the subsidy. The Coalition considered taking that course in 2019 (when Angus Taylor was Energy Minister) but declined to do so due to the scheme's apparent popularity in the Liberal Party room.

It has been estimated by a key lobby group for the extension,

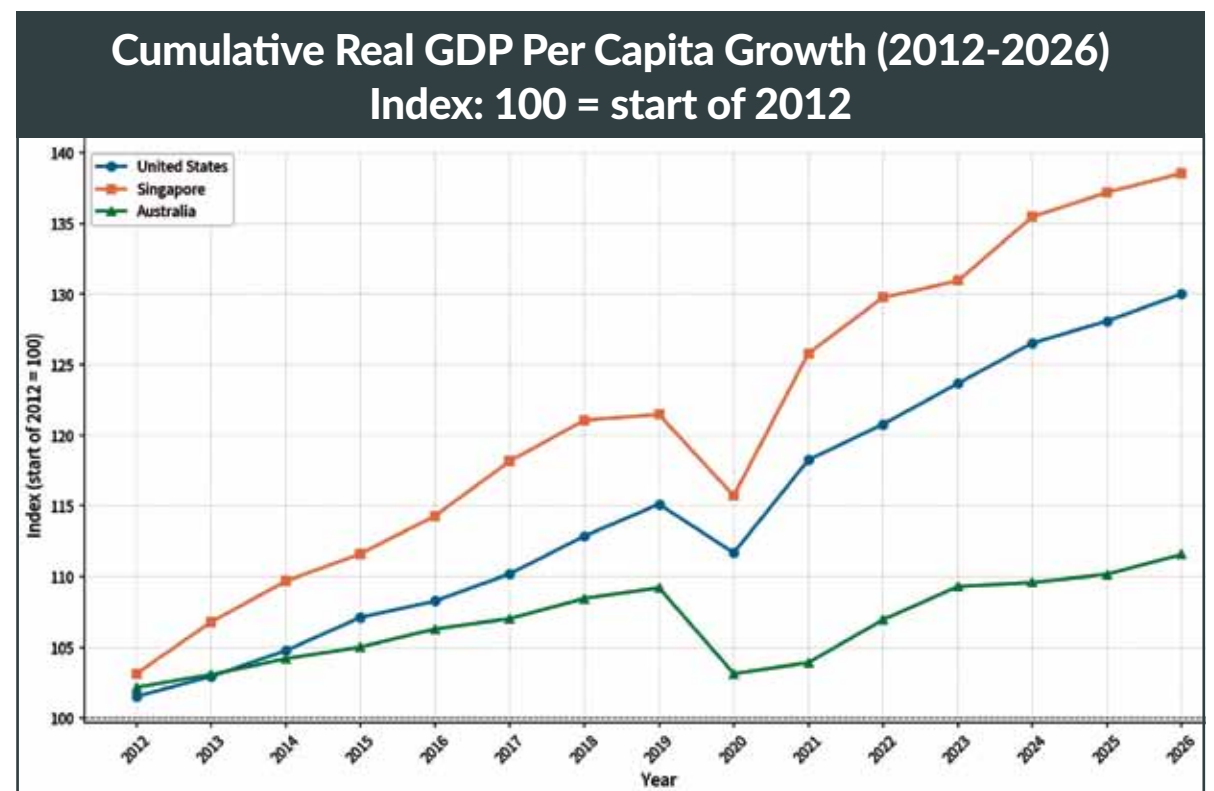
The deterioration in the Australian economy is gathering pace.

the Smart Energy Council, that the uptake will be 1.5 gigawatts per year over the next 20 years. Mr Bowen, in his announcement, estimated the benefit (i.e. cost to other consumers) at \$68,000 for a typical 250-kilowatt installation. This puts the annual cost at \$408 million.

Labor wants to introduce as many measures as possible to lock-in a future Coalition government to a net-zero, end-coal agenda. That agenda has been flagging due to a number of reasons. These include the rising cost of new large-scale facilities, which even with (undisclosed) subsidies under the government's Capacity Investment Scheme, cannot reach commerciality, grass-roots opposition to the necessary transmission lines, and declining household rooftop installations.

The decline in household installations is partly due to saturation (44 per cent of houses now have solar panels) and partly due to the diminished advantage following reduced subsidies for exported power and a daytime supply glut resulting from the program, which has created negative prices when the sun is shining.

And while yet another subsidy for renewables will further restrict the market for coal, the scheme's most important impact may be on existing grid-scale solar facilities, many of which are constrained off-



line due to weak transmission links or voluntarily shut down when daytime surplus supply drives negative prices. The accelerated transmission roll-out is vital to offset this.

Of course, the market distortions resulting from an ever-increasing level of subsidies designed to eradicate coal (and reduce gas to a supporting role) have led to prices that increase in a saw-like pattern. Many new subsidies bring a fall in wholesale prices (not in retail prices for subsidies like the SRES, which are financed by a levy on wholesale prices). This is inevitably followed by price increases as the cheaper coal is replaced by renewables. And each new increment of renewables adds to the precariousness of a system with less resilience than systems dominated by coal, gas, nuclear,

and hydro, whose supplies can be controlled. Australia's electricity prices, once among the world's lowest, are now 30 per cent higher than the average US prices.

The latest subsidy brings my estimate of the annualised level of subsidies to renewables to over \$19 billion a year. The flagship is the \$85 billion Capacity Investment Scheme. This, based on its similar UK scheme (the subsidies for which, unlike in Australia, are made public), costs consumers some \$7 billion a year.

The aggregate \$19 billion annual cost of renewable subsidies is equivalent to almost 20 per cent of private capital investment. Much of this is chasing now largely discredited supposed breakthroughs like green hydrogen. All of it is designed to replace low-cost, reliable supplies with higher-cost, intermittently

available electricity. And in addition, the subsidies divert, as intended, private capital towards activities that constitute not simply waste but destruction of genuinely productive capital.

This has been a major contributor to Australian per capita income levels falling short of the growth seen in Singapore and the US—nations that had similar per capita income levels to Australia in 2012 are now respectively 25 per cent and 20 per cent better off.

The deterioration in the Australian economy is gathering pace. With the lower standard of living that policies on climate and other government interventions comes a decreased capability to defend ourselves in a world that is becoming increasingly precarious.

■ *This article was published in the **Spectator Australia**, 6 August 2026.*

Jeffery Tucker: The Most Shocking Feature of the Covid Response

By **SCOTT JOHNSON**

■ *Scott Johnson is an independent Australian journalist who has written for The Washington Times, The Epoch Times, The West Australian, The Light Australia, Soldier of Fortune Magazine and other publications.*

In his interview with Dr Jessica Rose (PhD, MSc, BSc), Jeffery Tucker from The Brownstone Institute describes the depth of immorality of those in charge of the Covid response. It is noted that Australian authorities confirmed over 20,000+ excess deaths in

2022 that coincided with the vax mandates. In July 2026 Senator Alex Antic called for an official inquiry into this increase in mortality, however, the inquiry was voted down by the Labor Party and the Greens. Tucker's shocking revelation is highlighted in the following excerpt.

"We all have what we consider to be the most shocking feature of the Covid response. But for me, I still can't get over the fact that I was told by top FDA, NIH officials that a major reason for social distancing, lockdowns, masking, Plexiglas, stay-at-home orders, and everything else was to delay



Jeffery Tucker (above) Creative Commons Photo by Gage Skidmore. No changes.

the onset of natural immunity, to delay rising seroprevalence levels, to delay endemicity until after the shots were online. So, it wasn't just

that all these tactics, these sort of social engineering tactics, were designed to keep us [safe]. Well, no, it was exactly the opposite. It was to keep us from gaining a natural capacity to resist the virus so that they could wait until the injection came along. So the injection could be deployed and experimented upon us and thereby get all the credit for having solved the issue. That sounds like a wild conspiracy theory, but that's what they meant by 'flatten the curve.' Flatten the curve meant to prolong the pain, delay the solution. And it sounds crazy until you hear it from people who were there on the ground, in

the agencies, in the companies, watching all this unfold. And multiple sources have confirmed this without a shadow of a doubt in their mind that that was the real purpose of the school closures, the business shutdowns, the stay-at home orders, the travel restrictions, and everything: to delay the point at which we would have essentially solved the problem through natural exposure and immune upgrades."

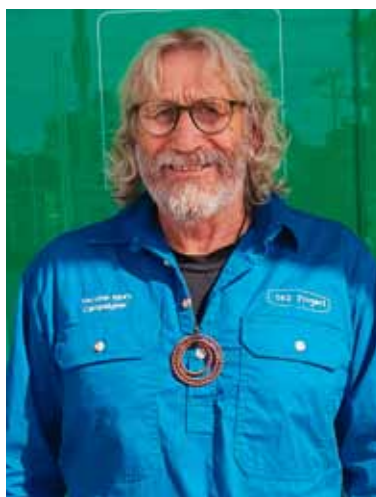
■ *For the full interview see Fauci's Diaries and Emails Exposed: Dr. Jessica Rose Digs Deeper - The Brownstone Show, Episode 31.*

Pharmacies Vaccinating Teens Despite Updated Guidance

By **ROBERT ROACH**

■ *Robert Roach is a vaccine injury campaigner focused on raising public awareness about those harmed and advocating for transparency around the risks associated with mRNA injections.*

When I visit pharmacies as part of the C&D Project (Cease and Desist), the first thing I show them is the Department of Health and Aged Care's May 2025 recommendation. It clearly states that **COVID-19 vaccination is not recommended for healthy adolescents under 18**. According to the department, the risk of severe illness in this age group was extremely low throughout the pandemic, and the potential benefits of vaccination do not outweigh the potential harms. This is the most important information I carry—and it is often the most



Robert Roach (above)

confronting for the pharmacists I speak to.

I volunteer with the C&D Project, a national group that visits pharmacies to raise concerns about COVID-19 vaccination practices, informed consent,

DNA contamination issues, and documented adverse reactions associated with the Pfizer vaccine. As a group, we have visited more than 600 pharmacies across Australia. One volunteer, George Kesic, has personally completed more than 200 visits.

When I enter a pharmacy, I begin with two questions:

1. Are you still administering the COVID-19 vaccine?
2. Are you still vaccinating healthy adolescents under 18?

If the answer is yes, I present the 2025 recommendation and then issue a cease and desist notice, explaining that the interaction will be recorded in a database.

I have visited more than 30 pharmacies myself, and the reactions have been mixed. Some pharmacists told me they never administered the vaccine and expressed awareness of the issues,

The pharmacist told me his wife had died following vaccination. He said he was fully aware of the adverse reactions but continued administering the vaccine because he was "not allowed" to inform patients of the risks.

which was encouraging. But when I asked several pharmacists whether they cared about people who have suffered vaccine injuries, the most common response was a blunt "not really." Hearing that repeatedly was confronting.

One encounter in a small Victorian town has stayed with me. The pharmacist told me his wife had died following vaccination. He said he was fully aware of the adverse reactions but continued administering the vaccine because he was "not allowed" to inform patients of the risks. Despite updated national guidance, many pharmacies appear to be continuing vaccination of healthy adolescents under 18.

I have raised these concerns with both State and Federal health ministers, but the responses have been the familiar "safe and effective" line. After dozens of visits, the biggest lesson I have taken from serving cease and desist notices is the lack of concern shown by some pharmacists. Whatever is driving this disregard, I hope it is not financial incentive.

Covid Whistleblower Barry Young On Trial in New Zealand

The Cover-Up Continues Worldwide

By **PHILLIP ALTMAN, BPharm (Hons), MSc, PhD**

Some of the world's best evidence showing the Covid "vaccines" killed people (perhaps many millions worldwide) was uncovered by expert data analyst Mr. Barry Young in New Zealand.

Working as a key Covid data analyst during the "pandemic" for the NZ health authorities, he was shocked to realise the Covid jab data he was analysing was showing (in one instance) that even a single multidose 6-shot vial of vaccine could result in the death of all those injected with the vial contents. The chances of this not being due to the vaccine was zero statistically. There were many other instances of clusters of deaths post-injection in small communities or clinics which suggested an obvious cause-effect relationship between the

vaccine administration and death occurring soon after. This is the exact type of situation where this observation needs to be reported immediately followed closely by a full investigation.

Barry Young claims he did the right thing and brought this observation to the attention of the health authorities in NZ under Whistleblower Protected Disclosure provisions of NZ law. Rather than investigating the obvious and alarming possibility that the Covid vaccine was killing people, the authorities jailed Mr. Young and now he is on trial for his disclosures. Mr. Young is defending himself due to the high costs and the authorities are making his life as difficult as possible. Governments often use legal warfare as punishment.

You can see Liz Gunn's full interview with Mr. Young on *FreeNZ*. Apparently, the case pivots on the government's claim that Mr. Young did not submit his warning



Evidence collected over the last 5 years amply demonstrates that the Covid vaccines were indeed linked to millions of otherwise unexplained deaths.

under Protected Disclosure; Barry Young claims the government

purposely hid his communications, and he has proof of this.

Given Mr. Young's claims, this astounding legal case amply demonstrates the immoral, corrupt and the evil nature of our governments and senior bureaucrats in that they can even conceive of prosecuting a diligent, valuable and competent civil servant who was just trying to save lives. It is simply incomprehensible and a stain on NZ.

It is no wonder trust in government is at an all-time low.

Evidence collected over the last 5 years amply demonstrates that the Covid vaccines were indeed linked to millions of otherwise unexplained deaths. This is the biggest cover-up in history. Barry Young needs justice...we all need justice and those responsible must be held to account.

Barry Young was right.

■ *Originally published on Phillip Altman's Substack 28 July 2026.*

■ *Visit <https://phillipaltman.substack.com/>*

Beale v The State of Queensland: The Mandates on Trial

A landmark challenge concerning human-rights, religious objection, medical coercion and government accountability – watch his first public speech – this legal case is historic.

By **PROFESSOR IAN BRIGHTHOPE**

■ *Professor Ian Brighthope is a physician with 49 years of practice, an academic and agricultural scientist with a postgraduate fellowship in nutritional and environmental medicine. He is the founding President of the Australasian College of Nutritional and Environmental Medicine.*

You must pay attention to the remarkable story of **Jayden Beale** and his determined pursuit of truth, transparency and justice. With limited resources, no powerful institution behind him and much to

lose personally and professionally, he asked a simple but profoundly important question: **can a government lawfully compel its citizens to undergo a medical intervention with no long-term safety data, contrary to their religious convictions and while withholding the evidence upon which that coercion was based?**

His case is about far more than one man's objection to a government mandate. It concerns bodily autonomy, freedom of conscience, the right to refuse medical treatment, the proper limits of emergency power, religious freedom and the enduring obligation of government to justify its actions with credible evidence.

Jayden Beale describes his four-year legal challenge to the Queensland Government's COVID-19 vaccination mandates as an unprecedented human-rights and anti-discrimination case. Unlike most Covid vaccine-mandate legal cases, which have concerned



Jayden Beale (above)

various employment disputes, **his case challenges the lawfulness of imposing vaccination requirements upon the general population, including people as young as sixteen.** He argues that the mandates violated bodily autonomy, religious freedom, the right to refuse medical treatment, the right to life, and the protection against non-consensual medical

experimentation.

Beale says the government has repeatedly refused to disclose the evidentiary basis for the mandates and has attempted on six occasions to have his case dismissed. He reports that all six dismissal attempts have failed and that the tribunal has now ordered the government to file its evidence.

Beale says his case is supported by thirteen expert reports from medical, scientific and regulatory specialists. He names Professor Wendy Hoy, Professor Robert Clancy, Professor Angus Dalgleish, Professor Ian Brighthope, Dr Philip Altman, Dr Melissa McCann and Dr Luke McLindon, among others. According to Beale, these reports address immunology, medicine, oncology, pharmacology, psychiatry, reproductive medicine, nutritional medicine and pharmaceutical regulation. He contrasts this with what he describes as the Queensland Government's failure, thus far, to

file any expert evidence.

He argues that the government required people to receive provisionally approved products whose longer-term safety and effectiveness were not established. He further argues that the risks posed by COVID-19 did not justify coercing the entire population.

Jayden stands for ALL of us against dictatorial, tyrannical governments. He is fighting for justice for EVERYONE. Some prominent lawyers have described his case as **"the most important legal case on the planet"**. Please consider supporting him.

■ *See Jayden's public speech and transcript at <https://votingmatters.com.au/presentations/covid/jayden-beale-covid-mandate-case>*
 ■ *Or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69TvKALy-Io>*
 ■ *Read the full article at <https://ianbrighthope.substack.com/p/one-man-stood-his-ground-jayden-beales>*

Major Australian Covid Vaccine Study 'Likely Flawed'

By **CLARE PAIN**

■ *Clare Pain is an Australian science writer and medical journalist, with a background in medicine, science, and statistics. Before Covid she wrote for New Scientist, the ABC, and Australian Doctor. Since 2021, she has contributed Covid-related research and analysis to the Journal of Independent Medicine, Spectator Australia, and The Epoch Times.*

An influential study¹ claiming Covid vaccines were "highly effective" in protecting older Australians from death from Covid in 2022, is probably methodologically flawed, a research team (including myself) has found.

This matters, because the study, known as 'Liu et al', underpins ongoing recommendations² for older Australians to have annual Covid boosters. Moreover, in its submission³ to the Senate Inquiry on Excess Mortality in 2024, the Department of Health and Aged Care used the study to back its claim there was "no credible evidence" that Covid vaccines had contributed to excess mortality.

The study's main claim was that, from June to November 2022, vaccine effectiveness against death from Covid was 84% in seniors (65 and over) who had received

a recent second booster. "Our findings emphasise the importance of continuing to administer booster doses", the authors concluded.

While protection from Covid death might be expected, a second claim—that vaccination protected people from death from *all causes combined* ('all-cause mortality')—raised alarm bells for Bond University biostatistician, Dr Mark Jones, cardiologist and independent researcher, Dr Christopher Neil, and myself.

Furthermore, the claimed all-cause mortality reduction was large: the peak effect was in those who had recently had a second booster, with a massive 58% decrease in deaths. To estimate the overall effect on the vaccinated population, we pooled the study results for all numbers of vaccine shots and still found a big reduction of 51%.

If there really was such a dramatic effect on all-cause mortality, then because 95% of seniors were vaccinated, one would have expected about a halving of the usual number of deaths. But this was not what happened. Australian Bureau of Statistics' data shows⁴ a 13.6% higher death rate than expected in 2022 for this age-group.

The study had other surprising results. Reductions were reported for five major causes of death,

including a 67% cut in cancer deaths and 41% for deaths from dementia. How could a vaccine, not designed to protect against these conditions (which can take years to kill) have such an effect, we wondered?

We did a 'thought experiment,' assuming that the study's all-cause mortality claim was correct, and calculated what would have happened had Covid swept through an unvaccinated population. This predicted an implausible 121% excess mortality spike.

It was more likely that there were problems with the way the study had been done than that the 'all-cause' claim was well-founded, we concluded. And that mattered, because if the study

Australian Bureau of Statistics' data shows⁴ a 13.6% higher death rate than expected in 2022 for this age-group.

methodology was flawed, that might mean that its main claim of 84% effectiveness against Covid

death was also not well-founded.

We wrote to the editor of *The Lancet Regional Health Western Pacific* (the prestigious journal that published Liu et al in October '23) raising our implausibility concern and suggesting potential confounders. After receiving a standard rejection, we pressed and the editor requested more information, which we sent. A few weeks later we were told our findings were "too preliminary" for publication in that journal.

Our findings have since been published⁵ in a new peer-reviewed medical journal (the *Journal of Independent Medicine*). Dr Liu has not responded to a request for comment.

References

- 1 *The Lancet Regional Health - Western Pacific, November 2023. 'Effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination against COVID-19 specific and all-cause mortality in older Australians: a population-based study'. Bette Liu et al. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanwpc/article/PIIS2666-6065\(23\)00246-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanwpc/article/PIIS2666-6065(23)00246-8/fulltext)*
- 2 *Australian Immunisation Handbook recommendations for covid vaccination. <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/covid-19#recommendations>*
- 3 *Department of Health and Aged Care submission to the Senate Inquiry on Excess Mortality. (This link automatically downloads the PDF document.) <https://www.apd.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=64524e12-656d-41a4-905a-55d25da88b2b&subId=756828>*
- 4 *Australian Bureau of Statistics. Measuring Australia's excess mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic until December 2023. <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/measuring-australias-excess-mortality-during-covid-19-pandemic-until-december-2023#excess-mortality-by-age-australia>*
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The Lies of Dr Anthony Fauci: Private Communications vs Public Messaging

Newly released FOIA emails and internal briefings reveal that Dr Anthony Fauci privately discussed several early COVID-19 pandemic uncertainties—including lab-leak plausibility, mask effectiveness, fatality rates, school closures and natural immunity—while publicly presenting more definitive positions. Here we have six documented contradictions between Fauci’s internal communications and his public statements, based on verified FOIA-released emails, congressional records and verified public statements.

Former President Joe Biden, joined by Counselor to the President and White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator Jeff Zients, receives a briefing from Director of the NIH Dr Francis Collins and Chief Medical Adviser to the President and Director of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr Anthony Fauci Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021, at the Dale and Betty Bumpers Vaccine Research Center (VRC) at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. (Official White House photo by Adam Schultz)



1 WUHAN LAB THEORY

Internal Communication (Feb–April 2020)

FOIA emails show Fauci and several virologists privately discussing the possibility of a lab-related incident, acknowledging it could not be ruled out.

Public Statement (2020–2021)

“There is no credible evidence to suggest that COVID-19 originated from a lab in Wuhan.” (*Multiple interviews, including May 2021*).

CONTRADICTION:

Privately: Lab-leak considered plausible.

Publicly: Lab-leak dismissed.

4 SCHOOL CLOSURES

Internal Discussions (2020)

Fauci acknowledged concerns about the negative impact of prolonged school closures in internal communications and advisory discussions.

Public Statement (2020)

“There’s no doubt that closing schools is the right thing to do.”

CONTRADICTION:

Privately: Harms of closures acknowledged.

Publicly: Closures supported.

2 COVID FATALITY RATE

Internal Assessment (Early 2020)

Fauci co-authored a *New England Journal of Medicine* editorial suggesting the infection fatality rate (IFR) might be closer to that of severe seasonal flu.

Public Statement (Feb 17, 2020)

“The mortality rate is likely around 2%.”

CONTRADICTION:

Privately: Lower IFR considered likely.

Publicly: Higher fatality rate cited.

5 NATURAL IMMUNITY

Internal Communications (2021)

Fauci acknowledged natural immunity as a factor in immunity modelling and internal discussions.

Public Statement (2021)

“I do not think natural immunity is reliable.”

CONTRADICTION:

Privately: Natural immunity recognised.

Publicly: Natural immunity downplayed.

3 SOCIAL DISTANCING

Internal Communications (2020)

FOIA-released discussions show Fauci and advisors privately acknowledging uncertainty around the “six foot rule,” noting it was based on outdated 1940s droplet-spread assumptions rather than contemporary aerosol science. Internally, the distance was described as “not a hard science number.”

Public Statement (2020)

“Everyone should stay at least six feet apart. Six feet is the safe and recommended distance to reduce transmission.”

CONTRADICTION:

Privately: Six-foot distancing acknowledged as an imprecise, non-evidence-based guideline.

Publicly: Six-foot distancing presented as a definitive, science-based requirement.

6 MASKS FOR THE PUBLIC

Internal Email (Feb 28, 2020)

“Masks are not really effective in keeping out virus, which is small enough to pass through material.” (*Email to Sylvia Burwell*)

Public Statement (April 2020)

“Everyone should be wearing masks. Masks are an important tool in our public health arsenal.”

CONTRADICTION:

Privately: Masks offer limited protection.

Publicly: Masks strongly recommended.

21	Q	Do you recall when discussions regarding, kind of, the at-least-a-6-foot
22		threshold began?
23	A	The 6-foot in the school?
24	Q	Six-foot overall. I mean, 6-foot was applied at businesses --
25	A	Yeah.
1	Q	-- it was applied in schools, it was applied here. At least how the messaging
2		was applied was that 6-foot distancing was the distance that needed to be --
3	A	You know, I don't recall. It sort of just appeared. I don't recall, like, a
4		discussion of whether it should be 5 or 6 or whatever. It was just that 6-foot is --
5	Q	Did you see any studies that supported 6 feet?
6	A	I was not aware of studies that -- in fact, that would be a very difficult study
7		to do.
3	Q	Do you recall reviewing any studies or data supporting masking for children?
4	A	You know, I might have, Mitch, but I don't recall specifically that I did. I
5		might have.
6	Q	Since the -- there's been a lot of studies that have come out since the
7		pandemic started, but specifically on this there have been significant on kind of like the
8		learning loss and speech and development issues that have been associated with
9		particularly young children wearing masks while they're growing up. They can't see
10		their teacher talk and can't learn how to form words.
11		Have you followed any of those studies?
12	A	No. But I believe that there are a lot of conflicting studies too, that there
13		are those that say, yes, there is an impact, and there are those that say there's not. I
14		still think that's up in the air.

Above: A highlighted excerpt from Dr Anthony Fauci’s January 2024 transcribed interview with the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, showing Q&A exchanges where he says the six-foot distancing rule “just appeared” and that he was unaware of studies supporting distancing or masking for children.

Consume, Work, Behave

China Surveillance State 'Like Online Multiplayer Game'

By SHANE FUDGE

Rather than the clatter of jackboots, the 21st century great reset has thus far been more about propagating acceptance and encouraging willingness to 'do the right thing'.

Some have described this as '5th generation warfare,' where the control of institutions, locked-down media coverage, and the pervasiveness of technological device use has clearly evidenced the effectiveness of 'soft power' over military might.

Any chinks in the armour of this programme have been repaired through the deployment of controlled opposition, and funded campaigns to discredit, smear, or deplatform dissenters. If all else fails, the 'unexpected death' of many who have been willing to stand up and defy the forces of oppression is always an option.

The ongoing docility of the majority will clearly present no major obstacles to continuation of the billionaire-tech elite reset.

And there now looms a more complex agenda that will crank things up a notch.

Larry Ellison, co-founder of the Oracle Corporation software company, has openly signposted such a move, arguing that 'the wonders of AI will bring about a new paradigm of surveillance guaranteeing that everyone will always need to be on their best behaviour.'

The system innovations that have been developed in tandem



How will you play their game? Photo by Gilles Sabrié

with 'sustainable development' (and funded by the same architects) are now very close to reaching a point where Ellison's prophecy is fulfilled.

The Epstein class's clear use of occultism and ritual symbology means that they must tell you first what they are doing, wait for the reaction (if there is one), and then continue with their plans.

Ellison's admission that we will be forced to behave sometime soon is a perfect example. These people believe that they are untouchable, and there are many examples which mirror Ellison's brazen statement.

This arrogance is helped of course because the masses

While we have been pointing to China's algorithmic citizenship as something to avoid, the rulers have been building a more sinister system in the West.

remain largely in a trance state and continue to do as they are told without being aware – or not wanting to know – that they are being ushered into digital slavery.

Those who are concerned point to China. Indeed, tech pioneer Gari Johnson has said: "China's social credit system represents the most comprehensive attempt to create a scored society where every citizen's behaviour is monitored, evaluated, and ranked according to algorithmic criteria."

While China is held up as the destination to which we are headed – and of course it certainly offers us some idea of what is to come – Johnson reasons that it is a different form of control than the tracks that are currently being laid for us in the West.

Johnson likens the system in China to 'a massive multiplayer online game' with an estimated 200 million Chinese citizens having been affected by social credit score restrictions, impacting their lives in various ways. And they have all been made aware of the rules of the game.

As he points out: "Chinese citizens understand roughly how

they are being evaluated." This enables a certain element of being able to 'game the system' for those who choose to do so.

For example, a late utility bill payment (and an affected credit score) can be cancelled out by what the state deems to be a 'positive contribution' such as undertaking voluntary work in the community or by partaking in some other government-approved endeavour.

In this system, the behavioural modification element of the system is designed to augment a 'carrot and stick' approach – comprehending how the system operates and understanding how to adapt to it. All, of course, in favour of what the state requires of its citizens.

However you want to view this variant of social engineering, it is still authoritarianism – just another flavour of tyranny aligned to different human motivations. The point made by Johnson, however, is that while we have been pointing to 'algorithmic citizenship' in China as something we need to avoid at all costs, the rulers have been busy building a much more sinister and multi-layered system

in the West.

What we have ahead is something that will be markedly more top-down, opaque in design, and much more difficult to navigate for those on the receiving end.

The tech giants in Silicon Valley – demonstrated particularly in Peter Thiel's Palantir and its Goliath offshoot – now have software capabilities that are fast becoming game-changers in surveillance operations.

They enable governments, military bodies, health agencies, large corporations and businesses to mine, integrate and analyse huge volumes of data that will actively support enforcement of our future behaviour. This will be aligned with predictive policing.

Palantir has lucrative contracts in place worldwide (both current and planned) across a range of institutions, organisations and interests, all of which will deploy a more tightly scripted state-of-the-art police state.

We won't be told the rules of this game. Social nudging and cultural engineering will have been long consigned to the annals of history by the time we come face to face with this complete surveillance/control infrastructure.

It will be complemented by three things: 15-minute cities, central bank digital currency, and digital ID. This 'triple lock' system is now being snuck in under the radar while we are being distracted by scare stories in the media.

China's social credit system is overseen by the government and, theoretically at least, offers a degree of transparency.

But corporations like Palantir will operate according to their own rules, meaning that credit scores, insurance risk assessments, employment screening, rental application systems and consumer profiling will be overseen by invisible algorithmic judgement you won't know anything about.

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■ *Visit <https://thelightpaper.co.uk/>*



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A Clutch! A Clutch! My Kingdom for a Clutch!

Across Marine Terrace, where people live in homeless camps, danger is constant and dignity fragile—until a veteran's failing van sparks a wave of kindness that reminds her, she's not forgotten.

By **MICHAEL GRAY GRIFFITH**

■ **Michael Gray Griffith (MGG)** is an Australian playwright, novelist, and independent-media figure, best known as the founder of *Cafe Locked Out*, a grassroots storytelling project. He is also the author of several plays and books, including *Marooned* and *Goodbye Road*.

The dachshund is a show dog. Long black silky hair: robes of a wealthier time. Groomed robes that no longer matter since things got real.

His caravan is a grey nomad's dream, surrounded by a knee-high flimsy fence that keeps the dog inside and everyone who might want what he has at bay.

This is Marine Terrace, Rockingham, Western Australia—one of several local itinerant camps.

Some residents are living in tents ringed by disorganised piles of everything they need to live that will not fit inside their tent.

Others sleep in cars, vans, and Winnebagos.

A few, especially up here on the wealthier side of Western Australia's skid row, sit in modern caravans set up as if they were in a proper park. Except there is no power, apart from what their solar panels provide, and there are no public toilets.

"I'm from here. I was born here. But here I am?" he says, like it's a full stop. He is eighty-plus and in his arms, held like something beloved and a life preserver, the dog barks with the menace this place deserves. He never once tries to quiet it.

He does acknowledge that he is a veteran—another local had already told me—but he will not say how he ended up here.

The only hope he sees for any of them is Pauline Hanson.

"She's the only one who seems to care," he says, before refusing to do a recorded interview.

Further along the row, a young woman wears a filigree necklace that decorates the bridge of her nose.

She wants to talk to us, but she can't do it now, for she has just become a carer for an elderly man living on the same road.



Above: "Homelessness," she told my camera, "eats away at your worth until there is none left. You just feel worthless and no one cares. No one." Photo courtesy of Scorpion Media Group.



Above: Australian veteran, Sarah, who served in the Royal Australian Air Force and her ageing van. Photo courtesy of Cafe Locked Out.

"A lot of people need caring for here," she says, then hurries off, promising to return.

She's sharing a family-sized tent with a man in his sixties.

He is looking for work and will not sit for an interview because he does not want the stigma of homelessness to spoil his chances.

He needs the work to support his wife of two years, who is living in the Philippines. "She gets nothing from their government," he says. "Nothing at all."

He is six months out of hospital after a heart episode.

"I was in so much pain, but I didn't think they'd take me seriously. But when I told the triage nurse I

thought I was having a heart attack they raced me straight in. I was there for a week."

Across from him, four tents united by tarpaulins are surrounded by dumped or stolen bicycles.

"Meth," the man says.

"They sleep all day, party all night, which means we have to party too."

"I can't help but notice," I say, "that everyone here is white."

He nods. "We get a few Indigenous sometimes and Māori, but yeah—the majority are white."

In her mid-fifties and single, Sarah spent seven years in the Air Force and is now tidying her van.

"I'm awake and off-grid," she

says. "I have solar, so I can run a fridge, and a TV, and I also have a toilet that I empty every day."

"Did you set up the solar?" I ask.

"Yep," she says, as though it's nothing.

Above her bed, on the white wall of her van, are affirmations she's written herself. One states something like, "Life is easier when you have something to be excited about."

Her main problem, apart from the man who walked the entire camp the other night knocking on windows with a machete, is a failed clutch that she cannot afford.

If the van will not move, the council may tow it, and she will be

on friends' couches or back in a tent.

"Do the interview," I tell her.

"You'll get a clutch."

"Homelessness," she told my camera, "eats away at your worth until there is none left. You just feel worthless and no one cares. No one."

Interview complete, we head back to record the story of the young carer.

Police are here.

Apparently, another local tells us, the girl with the nose necklace was walking past one of the tents when a man burst out, threw a can at her head, then while she was down, he beat her unconscious.

Now that man is on the run and she is on her way to hospital. I study the attacker's tent as we pass it.

It is well established and I wonder, briefly, where you run to when you already reside at the end of the line.

Then I see her. She is outside her own tent, hanging up her washing.

She has a clean SUV parked beside her and she is Filipino or perhaps Mauritian.

I pull over and introduce myself.

I'm an independent journalist who would like to hear her story.

But her English is limited, and she does not understand. And since she appears content, I decide not to disturb that and so I leave her in peace.

Later that day I post Sarah's interview.

Within an hour, a mechanic sends a message; he wants to help if he can.

"There are still good people out here," he emails.

In the morning I ring Sarah to tell her, but she already knows and is overwhelmed.

"The phone hasn't stopped," she says. "There have been so many offers of help that I'm overwhelmed."

A couple—both veterans—have already bought the part and are now driving up from down south to deliver it to me personally, and the mechanic said he will install it for free; she says and she sounds like she's smiling down the phone.

"I was going to call you earlier, but I just can't stop crying."

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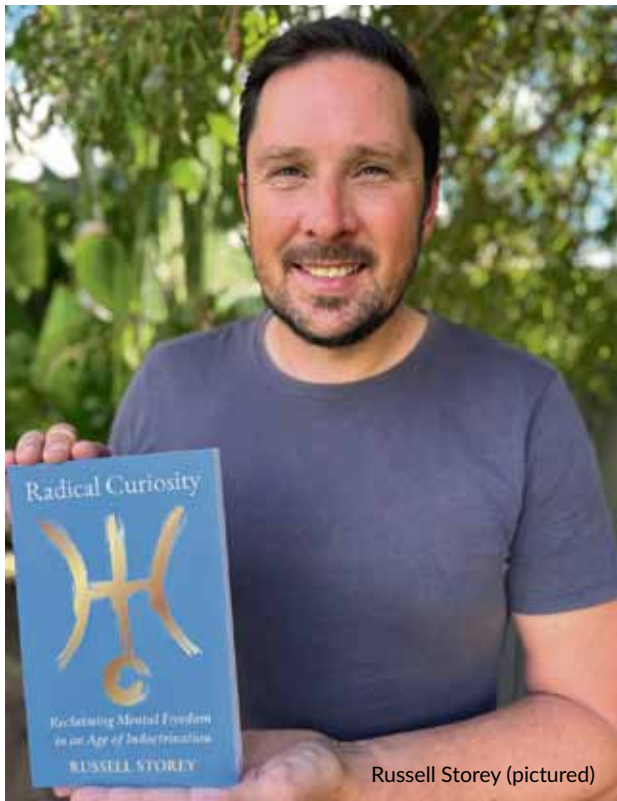
Radical Curiosity: Reclaiming Mental Freedom in an Age of Indoctrination

By **DR SALLY PRICE**

■ *Dr Sally Price is a courageous medical doctor who voluntarily deregistered from AHPRA. Today she focuses on education, mentorship and coaching in the fields of holistic, healing modalities, including hair tissue mineral analysis, nutritional environmental medicine and Microbiome medicine.*

I was fortunate to read early drafts of *Radical Curiosity: Reclaiming Mental Freedom in an Age of Indoctrination*, while it was still taking shape. Receiving the finished book confirmed my first impressions. I sat down intending to read a few chapters, and instead finished it in one sitting. It is an accessible, engaging read, yet one that lingers long after the final page. More importantly, it is a book that naturally invites conversation.

Russell Storey has produced a thoughtful guide to one of the most important skills of our time: learning how to think, rather than simply accepting what we are told to think. Throughout the book he gently invites readers to examine the assumptions, beliefs and cultural narratives that quietly shape our perceptions. He refers to many of these unquestioned assumptions as "mogmas"—mental dogmas that become so familiar they are rarely noticed, let alone challenged.



Russell Storey (pictured)

Rather than presenting arguments to win debates, Storey models something increasingly rare: respectful inquiry. His questions are simple, although not always easy to answer. They encourage reflection without confrontation, inviting readers to become curious about their own thinking instead of defensive about it. The carefully chosen quotations and practical reflections create space for genuine self-exploration rather than

prescribing conclusions.

What moved me most was the open-hearted and disciplined way this journey unfolds. There is no pressure to agree with the author. Instead, readers are encouraged to develop the confidence to investigate ideas for themselves, recognise where fear or habit may have limited their perspective and discover the freedom that comes with independent thought.

For many people, particularly

For many people, particularly in the Western world, the years surrounding Covid left lasting questions about trust, authority, community and personal responsibility.

in the Western world, the years surrounding Covid left lasting questions about trust, authority, community and personal responsibility. Regardless of where readers stand on those issues, *Radical Curiosity* offers something valuable: permission to ask thoughtful questions, to listen deeply and to engage with differing viewpoints respectfully. Those are qualities our society desperately needs.

As an educator, I immediately saw the potential of this book beyond individual reading. Its short chapters and discussion-provoking questions make it an ideal resource for book clubs, community groups, senior secondary students and university tutorials. Rather than teaching what to think, it provides a framework for developing the habits of critical thinking, intellectual humility and respectful dialogue.

In an age of increasing polarisation, helping young people cultivate curiosity may be one of the greatest gifts we can offer. I hope *Radical Curiosity* becomes the foundation for discussion workshops across Western Australia and beyond. It has the potential to create safe spaces where people can practise asking better questions, listening with greater generosity and reclaiming the mental freedom that comes from thinking independently. This is more than a book to read. It is a conversation waiting to happen—and one that feels both timely and necessary.

■ **Buy the book at <https://radicalcuriosity.com.au/>**

■ **For more information about Dr Sally Price visit <https://stan.store/DrSallyPrice>**

Whistleblower: A GP's Fight for Medical Integrity

Labelled as an 'anti-vaxxer' despite being vaccinated, Dr David Cartland 'destroyed' his medical career for daring to question and speak out during the COVID-19 pandemic; as detailed in his book *Do No Harm: The Diary of a 'Vaccinated' Anti Vaxxer*.

Dr David Cartland's book, *Do No Harm: The Diary of a 'Vaccinated' Anti Vaxxer*, offers a forthright and personal account of the COVID-19 "scamdemic", presenting a perspective shaped by his medical training, lived experience, and willingness to question policies he believed were harming the public.

Cartland argues that the pandemic response was driven less by balanced scientific debate and more by a coordinated atmosphere of fear created by governments, media organisations and pharmaceutical companies. In his view, this climate not only damaged public trust but inflicted



Dr David Cartland (above)

Cartland argues that the pandemic response was driven less by balanced scientific debate and more by a coordinated atmosphere of fear created by governments, media organisations and pharmaceutical companies.

significant psychological, social and economic harm on ordinary people.

Cartland's story is anchored in his long standing commitment to medicine. He describes his working-class upbringing that instilled in him a determination to pursue a career focused on service, ethics and patient care. After qualifying as a general practitioner, he says he became troubled by what he saw as institutional pressures that discouraged open discussion and punished dissent. These concerns intensified during the pandemic, when he publicly raised questions about the safety, ethics and necessity of the vaccination program and other government mandated measures.

The book's back cover includes endorsements from Dr Sucharit Bhakdi and Dr Robert Malone, two figures who have been outspoken about mRNA technology and the global pandemic response. Their comments reflect the broader theme of Cartland's narrative: that critical voices were sidelined, censored or discredited rather than engaged in open scientific dialogue. Cartland positions this

as a fundamental failure of public health leadership during a crisis that demanded transparency, humility and genuine debate.

His decision to speak out came at a personal cost. Cartland's public stance ultimately led to him being struck off the UK medical register. He presents this outcome not as a consequence of wrongdoing, but as evidence of a system unwilling to tolerate principled dissent. For Cartland, the experience underscores the importance of medical freedom, informed consent and the right of practitioners to raise concerns without fear of professional retaliation.

Cartland's upcoming sequel, *Strike Off: The Aftermath*, is scheduled to go to the publisher, continuing Cartland's account of the professional, legal and personal consequences of his stance.

■ **Visit Dr Cartland's website at <https://www.drdauidcartland.com/>**

■ **Purchase the book at <https://www.amazon.com.au/DO-NO-HARM-vaccinated-anti-vaxxer/>**

Global Snapshot

An Overview of International News

GATES: THE COOKIE CRUMBLES...

Phoebe Gates, the 23-year-old daughter of billionaire Bill Gates is a co-founder of AI shopping startup 'Phia' that now faces allegations of 'cookie stuffing' which entails dropping tracking cookies to claim commissions on sales it did not contribute to (including with major retailers like Nike and Nordstrom.) Internal messages suggest she and her co-founder allegedly knew of the dubious practice for some time before removing the feature in July 2026. No criminal charges have yet been filed, and experts indicate that civil financial penalties are more likely however, if prosecuted as U.S. federal wire fraud the maximum penalty is 20 years in prison plus fines and restitution.

NEW YORK PERSECUTES THE AMISH

The U.S. state of New York has targeted the traditional Amish community and some 25,000 Amish face mounting pressure from vaccine mandates being imposed on their private homeschool system. Back in 2019 religious exemptions were eliminated and schools refusing to require dozens of jabs for students have accrued heavy fines by the state—with three alone totalling USD \$118,000. The Amish community views this as an assault on religious freedom and their traditional way of life. Their lawsuit has reached the U.S. Supreme Court and if their case is unsuccessful may result in a mass exodus of Amish to neighbouring states like Pennsylvania. U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has reported numerous times about how the unvaccinated Amish are actually healthier than vaccinated populations.

FIRST SCALP FOR COVID CRIMES

David Morens, a senior adviser to Dr Anthony Fauci from 2006–2022 pleaded guilty on 18 August 2026 to conspiracy to defraud the United States. He admitted

using his personal email to hide communications about a terminated government bat-coronavirus grant from freedom of information requests and federal record requests during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding of the Wuhan lab in China was linked to EcoHealth Alliance, and it appears Morens was trying to counter lab-leak theories. He also accepted illegal gratuities. So far Fauci faces no charges however, Morens risks up to 5 years in prison, and sentencing is set for 12 November 2026.

ICC SANCTIONS — BRICK BY BRICK

In August 2026, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio imposed sanctions on multiple International Criminal Court (ICC) officials including President Tomoko Akane and senior trial lawyer Abdoulaye Seye (while ICC prosecutor Karim Khan and several judges were sanctioned earlier). These sanctions freeze U.S. assets, ban transactions with Americans and restrict travel of these officials. Rubio cited reasons for the sanctions include ICC probes into U.S. personnel during the Afghan war and Israeli leaders such as PM Benjamin Netanyahu and former defence minister Yoav Gallant. Consequences include disrupted ICC operations, financial isolation of officials and diplomatic leverage on states to withdraw funding amid threats of reduced U.S. aid. Rubio stated, "we will dismantle the ICC—brick by brick, if necessary".

A ROYAL CAR SALESMAN

A 26-year-old Belgian former car salesman, Clément Vandenkerckhove, was legally recognised in 2026 as the son of Prince Laurent, younger brother of Belgium's King Philippe. His mother, singer Wendy Van Wanten (Iris Vandenkerckhove) had a relationship with Laurent in the 1990s before he got officially married to another woman in 2023. She had revealed his father's identity when Clément was 16 with a DNA test later confirming a 99.5% match; Laurent formally

acknowledged him at a quiet town-hall ceremony and Clément gains the title of Prince and equal private-inheritance rights with Laurent's other children, however, he will not receive a royal allowance, official role or any entitlement to royal succession.

LAKE ONTARIO AMERICA

On 27 August 2026, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order renaming Lake Ontario 'Lake America' for all U.S. federal purposes, amid escalating trade tensions with Canada. The order directed the Department of the Interior and Board on Geographic Names to update its official systems, including the Geographic Names Information System, within 30 days and changes appeared quickly on federal maps and Google Maps for U.S. users. The name change does not bind Canada to utilising the new name. This incident reflects the ongoing U.S.-Canada tariff dispute that began in 2025 and escalated after the August 2026 trade talks failed. The U.S. imposed 50% tariffs on USD \$20 billion Canadian goods and while Canada is reportedly retaliating it faces disproportionate harm as roughly 70–75% of its exports go to the U.S. while only some 16% of U.S. exports flow north to Canada.

RUSSIA/UKRAINE WAR

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began on 24 February 2022 after the 2014 annexation of Crimea and fighting in the Donbas region. Russia holds roughly 20% of Ukraine (mainly east/south) with reported high casualties from both sides. Western funding of Ukraine and media dominated with drone warfare highlights a brutal conflict as U.S. mediated peace talks in September 2026 have yet to yield any clear resolutions to the conflict. Combined casualty estimates are reported to be over two million having been killed.

9/11 MILITARY TRIAL

The long-delayed U.S. military commission trial of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 attacks

and three co-defendants (Walid bin Attash, Mustafa al-Hawsawi, Ali Abdul Aziz Ali) is set to begin 5 June 2028 at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. A fifth defendant was ruled incompetent. Proceedings have spanned nearly two decades amid disputes over CIA torture-tainted confessions and a revoked 2024 plea deal that would have avoided the death penalty. Implications include potential closure for the victims' families after 25+ years and tests of fairness with military commissions and scrutiny of post-9/11 detention policies.

VENEZUELA OIL & U.S. RESERVES

In late August 2026, the U.S. and Venezuela's interim government agreed on a major 25-year oil deal as U.S. President Donald Trump announced U.S. majority control of over 65 billion barrels of Venezuelan proven reserves—nearly matching U.S. totals. The deal targets development of 17 oil fields to raise output over 1.5 million barrels per day involving U.S. investment and technology. The deal is projected to generate (estimated) USD \$200 billion for Venezuela. Venezuela retains resource ownership and the arrangement aims to revive its industry and secure long-term crude supplies for the U.S.. Political pundits also view the deal as a counter to China's influence in the region.

Australian News

AUSTRALIA: DAVID MCBRIDE RELEASED

David McBride, a former Australian Army lawyer, leaked classified Defence documents on alleged war crimes by Australian forces in Afghanistan to the ABC in 2016. Charged in 2018, he pleaded guilty in 2023 to theft of Commonwealth property and unlawfully communicating military information. In May 2024 he was sentenced to 5 years and 8 months' imprisonment. He was released on parole on 13 August 2026 after serving a non-parole period and will complete the rest of his sentence under community

supervision. Previously McBride stated, "The support I got from Australians is really what kept me going." Upon his release he said he was looking forward to seeing his daughters and his dog Jake adding, "hopefully my dog will remember who I am."

AUSSIE BRIDES COME HOME TO ROOST

Australian women and children who had previously joined or lived under ISIS in Syria have sought return from detention camps, sparking debate over citizenship rights and security risks. Between 2013–2016 Australian women travelled to ISIS-controlled territory in Syria and Iraq, often marrying fighters. After ISIS's defeat they and their children were held in refugee camps. Successive governments limited official repatriations to small groups in 2025–2026 and some returned independently or via private help. At least 16 have been returned to Australia with some facing charges of slavery and crimes against humanity involving alleged persecution of the Yazidi religious community.

AUSTRALIAN FARMERS & MENTAL HEALTH

The National Farmers' Federation reported that Australia's farming communities are experiencing increased levels of distress, stating "On average, one farmer dies by suicide every ten days. This is up to twice the rate of the broader working population. Behind each of those statistics is a family changed forever, a seat left empty at the dinner table, and a community left to carry the weight of that loss". This data was drawn from the University of Canberra's Regional Wellbeing Survey, presented by Professor Jacki Schirmer at the NFF–SPA Farmer Mental Health Breakfast, Parliament House, Canberra on 23 June 2026. NOTE: If you are thinking about suicide, call Lifeline on 13 11 14. For more mental health resources visit: nff.org.au/mental-health-resources.

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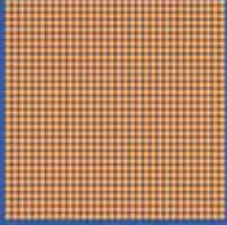
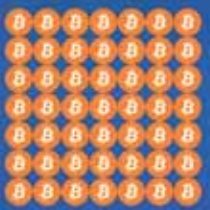
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