



THE BRUCE BULLETIN

JULIAN HILL MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BRUCE

Morrison's vaccine mess and quarantine failures



Scott Morrison has failed quarantine, failed the vaccine rollout, and failed in aged care. Leaving our most vulnerable Australians without the protection they so desperately need.

Every COVID-19 outbreak from hotel quarantine is a direct result of Scott Morrison's failure to put in place a safe national quarantine system. He has had more than a year to establish purpose-built facilities.

Every day that goes by without purpose-built quarantine means Australians face more outbreaks and more lockdowns.

Last November, Scott Morrison promised our community Australia is at the "front of the queue" for vaccines. But, in reality, we are at the back of the queue.

We are actually closer to the 100th country in the world for vaccination rollout – the slowest rollout for any developed nation.

Scott Morrison promised that four million Australians would be vaccinated by the end of March. But he only managed to get just over half a million doses administered, barely an eighth of what he promised.

Scott Morrison promised to fully vaccinate all 20 million adults in Australia by October. It won't happen. Now he refuses to set another target, to avoid being embarrassed again.

Aged care workers and residents were all supposed to be fully vaccinated by Easter. Yet the Morrison government still can't even answer basic questions about these vaccinations.

The rest of the world has a choice in vaccines – but not in Australia. We could have had as much Pfizer as we wanted, but the Prime Minister refused.

The Morrison government put all their eggs in the AstraZeneca basket, and the chickens have come home to roost. Last year they should have followed international best practice and made deals for four or more different vaccines.

Without a safe, fast and consistent vaccine program, Australian lives will be left in the lurch – while other countries with effective vaccine programs begin to return to normal life.

Australia has been facing the coronavirus pandemic since March last year. But Scott Morrison is only just announcing he's developing a COVID plan. And he still hasn't set any timelines or targets.



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Congratulations

Julian can arrange congratulations for special birthdays and wedding anniversaries.

Depending on the special occasion, messages can be arranged from the Premier of Victoria, Prime Minister, Governor of Victoria, Governor-General and the Queen for:

- 90th birthdays
- 100th birthdays
- 50th wedding anniversaries
- 60th wedding anniversaries
- 65th wedding anniversaries

If possible, please contact Julian Hill six weeks before the event.

Pensions Guide Information for older Australians

Julian Hill's Pensions Guide booklet contains up-to-date details about current entitlements, payments and services. Including:

- Age Pension
- Aged Care
- Carer Allowance
- Centrelink
- Seniors Health Card
- Concession cards
- Grandparent carers
- HomeCare Packages

To get your copy of the guide, just call Julian on 9791 7770, or email julian.hill.mp@aph.gov.au You can also download the guide from the www.julianhillmp.com website.

Julian is here to help you

As your representative in the Australian parliament, Julian Hill is available to assist you with anything involving the government.

Julian is also here to help whenever you, or your family, encounter problems with government services.

Please contact Julian anytime you want assistance, to discuss a local or national issue, or make a suggestion.

Australia is falling behind under Scott Morrison



Our nation is going backwards under the Liberals, and falling behind much of the rest of the world.

Australia is less productive, more unequal, more corrupt, less happy, more indebted, less affluent, and less trusting of public institutions than when the Liberal Party government was elected in 2013.

Australia's Global Performance: Falling Behind report, collated by Julian Hill, brings together publicly available, reputable data and

global rankings of key measures of Australia's progress and wellbeing.

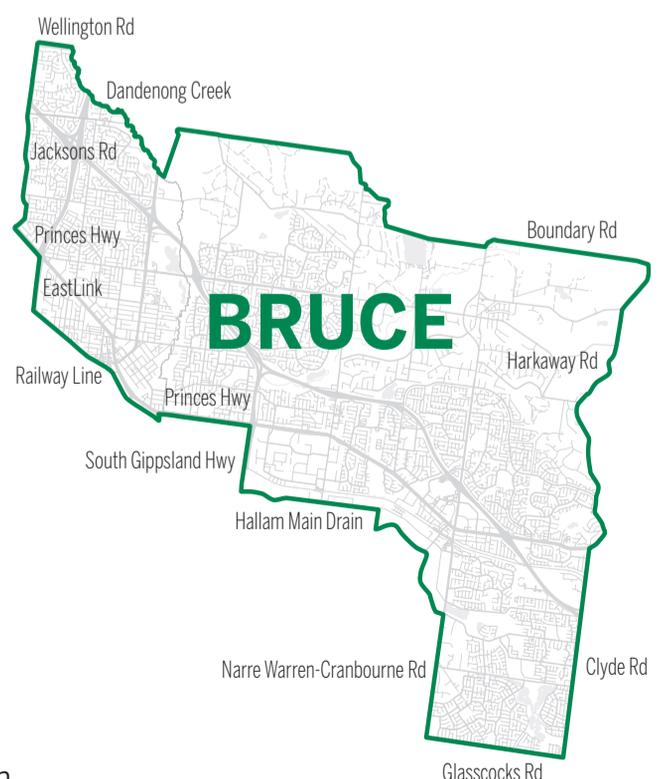
The Australian people deserve a government that acts in their interests. We must, and can, do better.

Contact Julian to get the printed booklet posted to you, or download the report from www.julianhillmp.com/FallingBehindReport

Bruce electorate

Following the 2021 redistribution, Bruce now includes the suburbs of:

Dandenong North, Doveton, Endeavour Hills, Eumemmerring, Hallam, Lysterfield South, Narre Warren and Narre Warren North. And parts of Berwick, Dandenong, Harkaway, Mulgrave, Narre Warren South, and Noble Park North.



Scott Morrison is cutting Medicare funding for vital surgeries

Under the cover of the national focus on COVID-19, Scott Morrison is trying to sneak through Medicare funding cuts to vital surgeries that Australians need.

Scott Morrison is cutting Medicare rebates for hip, shoulder, hand, and cardiac surgeries. That means people will now have to pay thousands of dollars or go without the operation.

Australians who are already suffering are being punished even further because of Scott Morrison's ruthless Medicare cuts.

No Australian should lose their mobility because they can't afford the necessary medical care.

The AMA warned the Morrison government about the rushed nature of these changes and that they can't be implemented without significant disruption to the provision of healthcare to countless Australians.

Whenever the Liberals get the chance, they try to cut Medicare. Tony Abbott and Malcolm Turnbull tried it, and now Scott Morrison is trying it too.

All Australians should have access to medical treatment regardless of their bank balance or their credit card limit.

Medicare is one of Australia's greatest achievements. Labor built Medicare, and Labor will always protect it.

But you can never trust the Liberals with healthcare. They have opposed Medicare ever since it began, and attack it whenever they can.



Medicare and healthcare going backwards

Australia has one of the world's best universal healthcare systems, thanks to the Whitlam, Hawke-Keating and Rudd-Gillard Labor governments.

This system is complemented by optional private health insurance coverage. But under the Liberals, private health coverage has become 36% more expensive, and coverage is at its lowest rate in 15 years – putting pressure on the health system.

Global performance

The 2020 Commonwealth Fund *International Health Policy Survey* shows Australia now ranks only 8th out of 11 high-income countries for healthcare affordability.

Under Morrison, healthcare is less affordable in Australia than in

the UK, Germany, France, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden and Canada.

And a 2017 Commonwealth Fund study ranked Australia just 7th out of 11 countries for equity. Australia's health system under the Liberals under-performs for people on lower incomes.

Costs to Australians have never been higher

Under the Liberals, it costs 37% more to see a doctor in Victoria than it did in 2013.

Making cuts to Medicare is in the Liberal Party's DNA.



Liberals' shameful, illegal Robodebt scheme

Robodebt was a government scam targeting the most vulnerable Australians by sending them fake debt notices for Centrelink debts they did not owe. And it was Scott Morrison's idea.

The Federal Court has found that Robodebt was illegal and called it "a shameful chapter" in Australia's history.

There are no words to fully convey the impact on people from these fake notices for debts that they did not owe. The tragic suicides been well-documented in the media.

One of the most difficult things that I have had to do, as a Member of Parliament, is sit down with numerous local people as they are breaking down crying because of this cruel scheme.



This wasn't some message found in their email spam folder.

It was an official letter, from the government of Australia demanding payment of money they did not owe within 28 days.

They had no way of disproving the claimed debt, and no way of paying it.

Does Scott Morrison know what a payment plan is like for someone being forced to 'repay' \$20,000?

The same government that handed over billions of dollars of JobKeeper to profitable companies, who used it to increase their profits, were chasing vulnerable Australians for money they didn't owe.

The Federal Court has found that Robodebt was illegal and called it "a shameful chapter" in Australia's history.

And yet, not one Minister in his government has been held responsible. And do you know why? It's because Scott Morrison started this scheme. And if one of them went, he would have to go too.

Federal Court Robodebt judgement

"The proceeding has exposed a shameful chapter in the administration of the Commonwealth social security system and a massive failure of public administration.

It should have been obvious to the senior public servants charged with overseeing the Robodebt system and to the responsible Minister at different points that many social security recipients do not earn a stable or constant income, and any employment they obtain may be casual, part-time, sessional, or intermittent and may not continue throughout the year.

The evidence shows that the Commonwealth unlawfully asserted such debts, totalling at least \$1.763 billion against approximately 433,000 Australians. Then, including through private debt collection agencies, **the Commonwealth pursued people to repay these wrongly asserted debts**, and recovered approximately \$751 million from about 381,000 of them."

INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Stay alert for scams

Protect your personal information

Scammers are calling or sending emails and texts impersonating well-known businesses and government agencies.

And prompting you to click links or download software designed to get access to your personal information.

Superannuation scams

Scammers are taking advantage of people in financial hardship due to COVID-19 by attempting to steal their superannuation, or by offering unnecessary services and charging a fee.

They pretend to be from a superannuation or financial service and try to get information about your superannuation accounts by falsely offering to:

- help to access your superannuation early
- ensure you are not locked out of your account under new COVID-19 rules
- check whether your account is eligible for various benefits

Online shopping scams

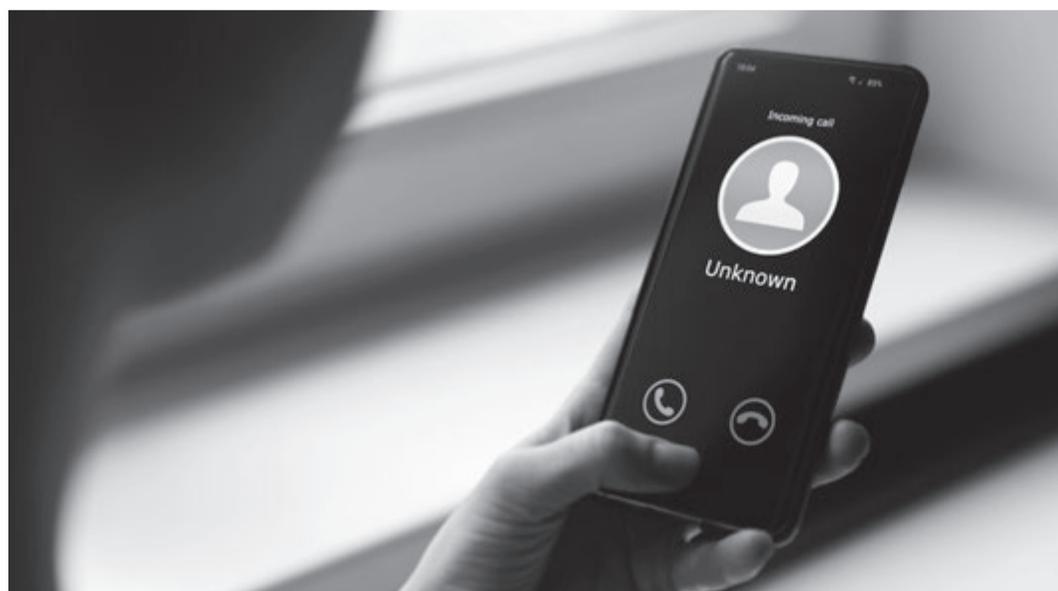
Scammers have created fake online stores claiming to sell products that don't exist (such as cures for COVID-19), and hard-to-find products.



How you can protect yourself from these scams

- don't click hyperlinks in texts, social media messages or emails
- go directly to the website through your browser
- don't ever respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for personal or financial details - just press delete or hang up
- the best way to detect a fake trader or social media shopping scam is to search for reviews before purchasing
- be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods such as upfront payment via money order, wire transfer, preloaded card, or electronic currency

Information courtesy of the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission Scamwatch



For more information and advice

Scamwatch

Information for consumers and small businesses about how to recognise, avoid and report scams.

www.scamwatch.gov.au

Consumer Affairs Victoria

Learn how common scams work and what to do if you get scammed.

Tel: 1300 558 181

www.consumer.vic.gov.au

Australian Cyber Security Centre

Advice about how to protect yourself, your family and your business online.

www.cyber.gov.au

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Report or make a complaint about email or SMS spam, and steps you can take to reduce spam and The Do Not Call Register helps reduce phone calls from people selling goods and services.

Tel: 1300 850 115

www.acma.gov.au

IDCARE

Help for Australian individuals and organisations to reduce the harm experienced from the compromise and the misuse of their identity information.

Tel: 1800 595 160

www.idcare.org

eSafety Commissioner

Online safety programs, education resources, and help to take action or make a complaint if you experience online bullying or abuse.

www.esafety.gov.au

If it sounds too good to be true... it probably is.

NEWS

Privatised cashless pension card

Scott Morrison's Liberal government wants to expand the cashless debit card to include all pensioners.

The Minister for Social Services, Anne Ruston, admitted in a Channel 7 interview "we are seeking to put all income management onto the universal platform... the cashless debit card".

80% of the pension would be put on the privatised, cashless card. So they can then limit where, when and how you spend your own money. You might also have to use a special cash register to make your purchases.

If this card scheme gets through, pensioners wouldn't be able to pay cash to buy cheap food at the local market, second-hand goods, a meal or a beer at the RSL, or give cash to their grandkids.



This government thinks it knows better than Australians how to spend their money. The vast majority of pensioners manage their money perfectly well. They know where every cent goes.

At every turn, the Liberals try to find more opportunities to give their corporate mates more profit from taxpayers' funds.

The Morrison government has already wasted \$70 million establishing the privatised cashless pension control card, operated by a private company, called Indue.

The government has spent over \$5,200 for each person currently on the card – more than some part-pensioners get in a year.

The government, not corporations, should operate the social security system and Centrelink for the benefit of pensioners who have worked hard and paid taxes all their lives.

Labor will fight this government's plan to force this shameful debit card onto pensioners. And a Labor federal government would abolish the privatised card.

Labor's cheaper child care plan

Child care is too expensive and too complicated.

The current system punishes people, often mums, who want to work more than three days a week.

Working families with kids in child care are struggling right now. Since the Liberals came to power in 2013, child care fees have risen by 38% – while real wages have fallen.

The average family spends nearly 20% of their income on child care costs – double the global average.

Scott Morrison's child care plan does little to solve the problem that he helped create.

Labor's alternative child care scheme would help one million



Australian families. That's four times as many as the Liberals.

Labor's boost in support would be available for 97% of families for the entire time they have children in care. Unlike the Liberals' announced scheme, you wouldn't have to have a second or third child in care to get any benefit.

Analysis by the Grattan Institute shows that Labor's child care policy would benefit "all families

who use child care... regardless of the number of children, their age and the family income." This would also lead to a significant increase in workforce participation, resulting in an economic boost three times larger than under Scott Morrison's announcement.

Affordable child care is essential for Australia's future – helping parents, helping children, and helping grow the economy.

Handy guide to government and community health services

After Hours GP Helpline

After assessment by a registered nurse, you can speak directly to a GP

Tel: 1800 022 222

Arthritis Australia

Improving quality of life for Australians living with arthritis

Tel: 1800 111 101

www.arthritisaustralia.com.au

Asthma Australia

Working to create a brighter future for people with asthma

15 Dudley Street West Melbourne

Tel: 1800 278 462

www.asthmaaustralia.org.au

Better Health Channel

Information to improve the health and wellbeing of people and their communities

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Beyond Blue

Improving the lives of people affected by anxiety, depression, or suicide

Tel: 1300 224 636

www.beyondblue.org.au

Cancer Council Australia

Offers a range of services to support anyone affected by cancer

615 St Kilda Road Melbourne

Tel: 13 11 20

www.cancer.org.au

Casey Hospital

62 Kangan Drive Berwick

Tel: 8768 1200

www.monashhealth.org

Coronavirus Hotline

If you suspect you may have coronavirus disease, call the dedicated hotline

Tel: 1800 675 398

www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Dandenong Hospital

135 David Street Dandenong

Tel: 9554 1000

www.monashhealth.org

Dementia Australia

Support and information for people living with dementia, their carers, and family

National Dementia Helpline

Tel: 1800 100 500

www.dementia.org.au

Diabetes Australia

Working to reduce the impact of diabetes on the community

National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) Helpline

Tel: 1300 136 588

www.diabetesaustralia.com.au

Head to Health

Helping you find mental health digital resources and phone support services

www.headtohealth.gov.au

Health Complaints Commissioner

Resolves complaints about healthcare and the handling of health information

570 Bourke Street Melbourne

Tel: 1300 582 113

www.hcc.vic.gov.au

Heart Foundation Helpline

Personalised information on heart health, nutrition and a healthy lifestyle

Tel: 13 1112

www.heartfoundation.org.au

Kidney Health Australia

Helping people with kidney disease to improve health outcomes

125 Cecil Street South Melbourne

Tel: 1800 454 363

www.kidney.org.au

Lifeline

24 hour crisis support and suicide prevention services

Tel: 13 1114

www.lifeline.org.au

Medicare

Payments that can help when you use health care services or buy medicines

GPO Box 9822 Melbourne

Dandenong Service Centre

27-29 Robinson Street Dandenong

Fountain Gate Service Centre

71 Webb Street Narre Warren

Tel: 13 2011

www.humanservices.gov.au

Medicines Line

Information on prescription, over-the-counter, and complementary medicines

Tel: 1300 633 424

www.nps.org.au/medicines-line

Monash Health Community Dandenong

122 Thomas Street Dandenong

Tel: 9792 8100

www.monashhealth.org



National Health Services Directory

Find health services (GPs, pharmacies, hospitals)

www.nhsd.com.au

NURSE-ON-CALL

Phone service providing immediate, expert health advice from a registered nurse

Tel: 1300 60 60 24

www.health.vic.gov.au

Poisons Information Centre

Advice about what to do if a person has been poisoned, bitten or stung, or has overdosed or made a mistake with medicine

Tel: 13 1126

www.austin.org.au/poisons

Suicide Call Back Service

Telephone and online counselling to people who are affected by suicide

Tel: 1300 659 467

www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au

Suicide Line

Counselling service offering professional support to people at risk of suicide

Tel: 1300 651 251

www.suicideline.org.au

Vision Australia

Supporting people who are blind or have low vision to be as independent as they choose

45 Princes Highway Dandenong

Tel: 1300 847 466

www.visionaustralia.org

For more local government and community services including community safety, support and legal services, see the **handy guide** on Julian's website
www.julianhillmp.com

The Liberals can't be trusted to fix the aged care crisis

Older Australians and the families who love them deserve so much better than the chaotic, unsafe system that has evolved under Scott Morrison.

Scott Morrison stubbornly failed to listen to residents in aged care, their families, or their care workers.

When the Prime Minister was Treasurer, the government cut funding for aged care services by \$1.7 billion.

And he was asleep at the wheel when 685 older Australians died in nursing homes during last year's coronavirus outbreak.

Scott Morrison is responsible for the aged care system. And he is responsible for the funding cuts and the terrible neglect identified in the Royal Commission.

The Royal Commission into Aged Care found the aged care system failed in its duty to support older Australians and graphically highlighted the tragic outcomes.

The Royal Commission's interim report titled Neglect, detailed:

- up to half of aged care residents are malnourished
- mistreatment of older people in residential aged care is commonplace, including poor wound management, over-medication, use of restraints, and rationing of incontinence pads
- care staff are overworked, underpaid, and lack support
- 28,000 people died while waiting for a home care package

The Liberal government's response to the Royal Commission and the aged care crisis falls way short of what's required.

They talked a lot, but only provided about one-quarter of the funding needed.



Key recommendations have been fobbed off, delayed or outright rejected that are important to improving care, nutrition, transparency, and staffing. For instance, they've:

- ignored the recommendation to require a nurse to be on duty 24/7 in residential care
- gifted \$3.2 billion to providers with no strings attached, without ensuring this money goes to additional care or better food
- done nothing to improve wages for overstretched, undervalued aged care workers
- opted for fewer hours of care than recommended and to deliver them much later
- failed to clear the home care waiting list of 100,000

Scott Morrison and his hapless Minister Richard Colbeck can't be trusted to fix this broken system. They won't take responsibility and always pass the buck.

Older Australians were there for us, paid their taxes, held their communities together, raised their families, and served our country in war and in peace. They deserve to feel safe, and be treated with dignity.

A Labor government would ensure that every dollar spent in aged care goes to employing a guaranteed minimum level of nurses, assistants and carers and on daily needs like decent food. Instead of into the pockets of the more unscrupulous providers.



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Please contact Julian anytime you want assistance, to discuss a local or national issue, or make a suggestion.

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