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**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 July 2021 12:35 PM

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**Subject:** Why are the Children of South Australia being denied their fundamental rights by Steven Marshall and Nicola Spurrier?

**For the attention of:**

Grant Stevens  
Commissioner of Police  
State Coordinator COVID-19 Emergency Response

Dear Commissioner Stevens

Why are the **rights of South Australian children** being trampled by Premier Steven Marshall and Chief Public Health Officer Nicola Spurrier?

Our children have been forced to endure lockdowns – denying them the social connections and activities vital for their wellbeing; they have been denied contact with their grandparents and extended family; their education has been disrupted; and now they are being **forced into masks** in South Australian schools.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states:

'In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.'<sup>[1]</sup>

Is muzzling our children at school in their **best interest** Commissioner Stevens?

Are our children a **primary consideration** in any of the measures being employed by Premier Steven Marshall and Chief Public Health Officer Nicola Spurrier?

Are you aware that Covid-19 poses little risk to children, and is less dangerous to them than influenza?[2-6]

Are you aware that evidence shows children are not major drivers of transmission, and there is no need to close schools?[7-10]

Are you aware that research shows only 25 children died from Covid-19 in England between March 2020 and February 2021? Most of these children had serious underlying health issues. This is in a population of over 12 million children, with millions of cases of Covid-19.[11]

There are currently **25 active cases** of Covid-19 in South Australia.[12]

Children have nothing to gain from these measures, so why are they being subjected to them? Are these measures proportional to the risk?

Have you considered whether you could be held accountable, in future public inquiries, for the abuse of children's rights by executing the **Emergency Management Directions**?[13]

Are you aware that many of the measures being authorised by you, including lockdowns, are not recommended in the *Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza (AHMPPI)*?[14]

In a recent [letter to the Prime Minister](#), I asked why he abandoned Australia's pandemic plan to pursue a suppression strategy, with a vaccine solution as the only way out. I also asked him if the rights of the Australian people are being suppressed, to force us to comply with this vaccine solution.

As I pointed out to the Prime Minister, the *AHMPPI* and the *Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)* state that **'measures will rely on voluntary compliance rather than legal enforcement wherever possible.'**[15] The *SA Health Viral Respiratory Disease Pandemic Response Plan*, which is based upon the *AHMPPI*, states the same.[16]

The *AHMPPI* and the *Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)* also state that any public health response should **'ensure the rights of the individual are upheld as much as possible.'**

Do you think the measures you have enforced **ensure the rights of the individual are upheld as much as possible** Commissioner Stevens?

As Elizabeth Hart states in [her recent email to you](#) 'do you think it appropriate that South Australians are confined to their homes with limited movement allowed, and that SA Police are being used to police restrictions on people's free movement and association?'

Are South Australians being subjected to measures that trample on the rights of our children, so we submit to experimental vaccines?

Commissioner Stevens, this is a profoundly serious situation. As a society we have a duty to protect our children. It is time we put the [well-being of our children and young people first](#).

I am requesting that you urgently review the validity of the measures you are putting your name to.

I urge you to seek accountability from Premier Steven Marshall and Chief Medical Officer Nicola Spurrier for these ongoing restrictions that are harming our society - particularly our children and young people, who will also bear the broader economic impact of lockdowns in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely

Emma McArthur

1. [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
2. [Open Schools, Covid-19, and Child and Teacher Morbidity in Sweden](#)
3. [An evidence summary of Paediatric COVID-19 literature](#)
4. [Children and young people remain at low risk of COVID-19](#)
5. [Population-level COVID-19 mortality risk for non-elderly individuals overall and for non-elderly individuals without underlying diseases in pandemic epicenters](#)
6. [Global Covid-19 Case Fatality Rates](#)
7. [Children are unlikely to be the main drivers of the COVID-19 pandemic - A systematic review](#)
8. [Closing schools is not evidence based and harms children](#)
9. [Covid-19 in schoolchildren - A comparison between Finland and Sweden](#)
10. [COVID-19 in children and adolescents \(version 2\)](#)
11. [Deaths in Children and Young People in England following SARS-CoV-2 infection during the first pandemic year: a national study using linked mandatory child death reporting data](#)
12. [Covid-19 dashboard](#)
13. [Emergency Declaration and Directions](#)
14. [Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza \(AHMPPI\)](#)
15. [Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
16. [SA Health Viral Respiratory Disease Pandemic Response Plan](#)