



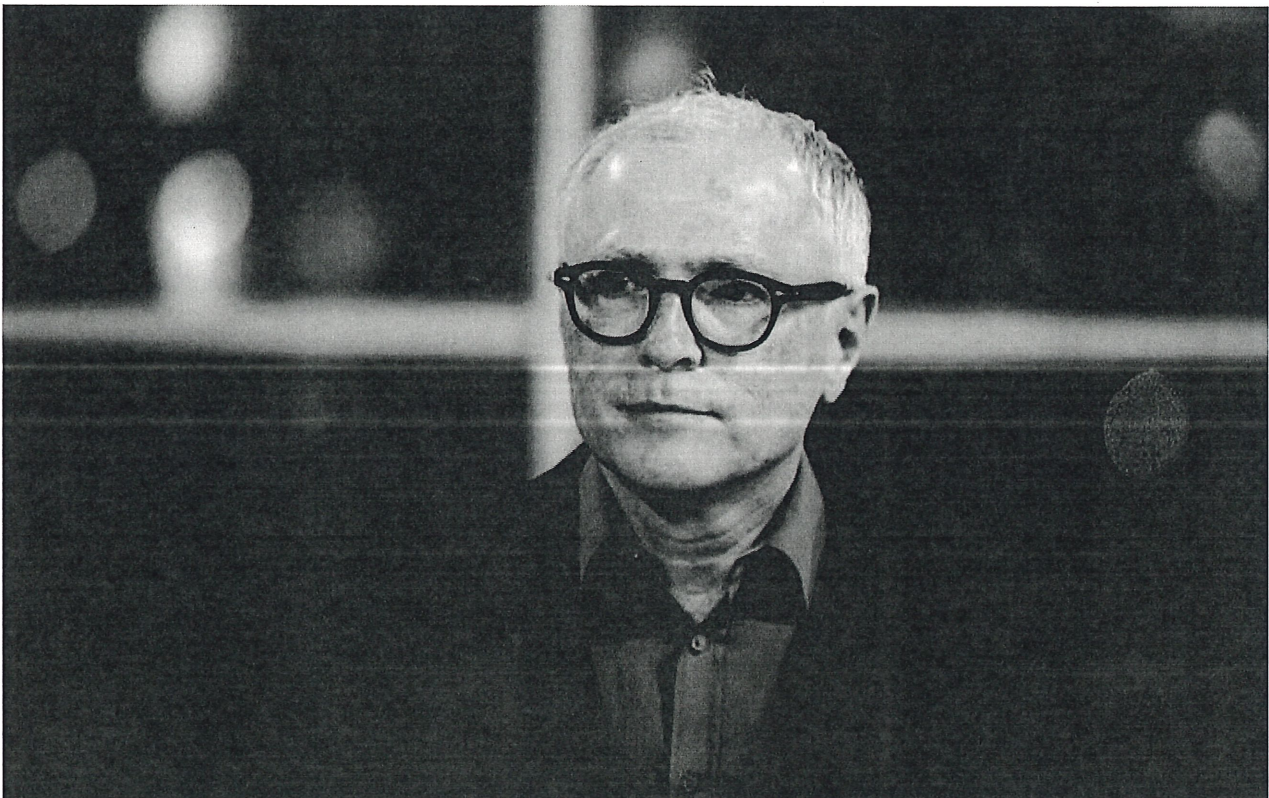
(RNZ, 2021i)

NEW ZEALAND (/NEWS/NATIONAL) / COVID-19 (/NEWS/COVID-19)

Epidemiologist backs move to scrap mercy flights as NSW Covid-19 infections rise

10:22 am on 10 July 2021

A public health professor is backing the government's last-minute call to scrap mercy flights out of New South Wales.



Dr Michael Baker said the situation in NSW shows how vigilant New Zealand has to be regarding the Delta variant. Photo: RNZ / Samuel Rillstone

Covid-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins yesterday announced the flights - which were due to begin bringing New Zealanders home from midnight - are being postponed for at least three days

(<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/446546/watch-minister-for-covid-19-response-chris-hipkins-gives-briefing-on-new-south-wales-situation>).

Returnees will be rebooked from Tuesday, but will now have to spend 14 days in a managed isolation hotel on arrival, although they will not have to pay for their stay.