

19 April 2023

Professor Tony Blakely
Chair Commissioner
Inquiry into COVID-19 lessons
Department of Internal Affairs
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Wellington 6140

Kia ora Tony,

COVID-19 Nation Dates: A timeline of significant events in Aotearoa New Zealand's COVID-19 pandemic (first edition)

The McGuinness Institute strongly supports a Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19. It is vital that we learn from Aotearoa New Zealand's response to COVID-19, and that these lessons can be applied in preparation for future pandemics.

Please find enclosed a copy of our book *COVID-19 Nation Dates (first edition)*. The book is a timeline of significant events that have shaped the COVID-19 pandemic in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We are aware the Inquiry team will be developing a timeline of key events. We note that on the DIA website (under 'Inquiry into COVID-19 lessons') it states that the current focus is on 'identifying and sourcing publicly available information' and that '[t]his has included an initial communication to Government agencies about reports, reviews and information that can help inform the Commission's work'. We acknowledge that the website makes clear it is 'not seeking additional information outside this process, at this stage'.

We hope the book provides a useful summary. It is still a work in progress and we hope to publish a second edition in 12 months' time. The second edition will extend the timeline and include any events we may have missed. The first edition includes over 700 sources. All references can be found on our Nation Dates website (see below), as pdfs.

We wish you all the very best with your work. Below is a list of links to our work that might be useful. We recorded key events and publications from the start of the pandemic and have produced a number of reports, surveys and publications that might prove useful.

Ngā mihi nui



Wendy McGuinness

McGuinness Institute web pages

- Tables of key COVID-19 reports published by government and independent bodies:
<https://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/pandemics-publications/>
- References for *COVID-19 Nation Dates*: <https://nationdatesnz.org/covid-19-nation-dates>

McGuinness Institute publications

- *Think Piece 33 – The Long Normal: Preparing the National Reserve Supply (NRS) for pandemic cycles* (April 2020): <https://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/publications/think-pieces>
- *Survey Insights: An analysis of the 2020 NZNO PPE Survey* (May 2020):
<https://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/publications/surveys>
- *Think Piece 37 – The gap between doses matters!* (June 2021):
<https://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/publications/think-pieces>
- *Discussion Paper 2021/03 – A COVID-19 Situational Report: Beyond Aotearoa New Zealand's Fortress as at 1 September 2021* (September 2021):
<https://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/publications/discussion-papers>