



Position Statement On Covid19 Vaccinations In Schools

SKIP is an association of concerned parents and other members of the public united in ensuring that the Government's public health measures in response to Covid19 are not harmful to the health and wellbeing of children. In particular, we promote freedom of choice in relation to Covid19 vaccinations, without discrimination.

SKIP issues this position statement in relation to the attached report from the Grattan Institute titled "Race to 80: Our best shot at living with COVID". The Grattan Institute is an "independent think tank focused on Australian public policy" but the report was drafted in collaboration with both Federal and Victorian Government participants and officials.

Of particular concern to SKIP is Section 3.5 (page 41) of this report which states:

"Children should be vaccinated at school as soon as possible. Vaccinating children is an important component of Australia's vaccination program. The TGA has approved the Pfizer vaccine for use in 12-to-16 year-olds. Approval for children under 12 awaits clinical trial results. Once vaccines are available for children, they should be distributed through schools. Australia already has effective infrastructure to run state-based school vaccination programs. Utilising this capacity would enable a high proportion of children to be vaccinated very quickly."

SKIP is gravely concerned about the push to vaccinate children in schools for a number of reasons:

1. the subject of Covid19 vaccination is already extremely divisive, with family members, spouses and large sections of the community adopting opposing positions on whether or not vaccination against Covid19 is even necessary given the relatively low risk that the virus presents for children. Vaccinations in schools will create a focal point for these opposing views. This has the potential to create a very stressful situation for teachers, parents and students alike who are already trying to cope with some very difficult challenges;
2. the decision whether or not to give a child any medical procedure should be a decision solely for that child's parents in consultation with their doctor. The Covid19 vaccines should be no exception and we question whether it is appropriate for governments to place schools and teachers in such a challenging position; and
3. given the novel nature of the Covid19 vaccinations and the lack of any long term studies as to their effects on children, the risk of liability for adverse reactions cannot be discounted. The fact that the Federal Government has provided indemnity for doctors administering these vaccines in certain situations gives a clear indication of the potential risks for schools if they are compelled to be involved. We do not consider it fair that our schools be expected to shoulder these risks.

In order to avoid further distraction, disruption, division and potential liability, SKIP is of the view that all schools should adopt a neutral position in relation to the vaccination of children against Covid19, which should include the stance that Covid19 vaccinations be conducted through established clinics and not via a school program.

SKIP

[SKIPaustralia.org](https://www.skipaustralia.org)

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