



Infected Blood
AUSTRALIA

**GREETINGS FROM THE CAMPAIGN FOR A ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
INTO THE CSL AND AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS BLOOD SCANDAL.**



IN THIS ISSUE

Pg1-2 Renewed hope this Christmas
by Charles MacKenzie

Pg 3 Tell your story
Contact us with details

Pg 4 England & Australia-A not so Commonwealth
By Susanne Walters

Pg 5 Email Health and Shadow Health Ministers
Email Campaign

Pg 6 Michael Imperato Update

Pg 7 Join our socials



If you are interested in making a contribution
or would like to share your story in our
next newsletter.

Please contact Charles MacKenzie:
cjm@infectedbloodaustralia.com

RENEWED HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS
BY CHARLES MACKENZIE

Last Christmas our newsletter reported that after decades of sending out distress signals on behalf of the Australian victims of the infected blood scandal, we finally had someone answer the call.

The person that answered our distress signal was **Michael Imperato**, the British lawyer that helped force the UK's largest ever legal investigation, the Infected Blood Inquiry.

Michael's update on the progress that is being made is featured on page 6 of this newsletter, it's essential reading for anyone interested in this issue and I think it might very well give people in our group some extra Christmas cheer.



Our main aim this year has been to reach out to anyone infected or affected by Australia's infected blood scandal. And despite the mainstream media being distracted by COVID-19 and disinterested thus far in investigating Australia's deadliest medical failing, we have not waited around, but instead taken action ourselves, promoting the cause and giving interviews on social media in the hope it would reach anyone impacted by this disaster.

As anyone that knows me might tell you, the digital world and social media are not my forte. But I am very determined for this cause, so I asked our volunteers to provide the strategy on how we could gain ground.

Their advice has been implemented and as a result our social media campaign has not only brought in thousands of signatures for our petition for a Royal Commission of Inquiry, but it has also brought in new cases and new friends.

Our Instagram account for Infected Blood Australia has gained 10, 0000 followers in the last year, more than some politicians with paid social media managers armed with budgets achieve!

Frustratingly, the year has also brought more health challenges for many victims in our group, myself included. I have developed some significant neurological problems as a result of having had Hepatitis C for 33 years. I have had to defer taking available treatments for Hepatitis C out of concern for the fact I have problems with my bone marrow disease called Severe Aplastic Anaemia, which was the reason I was given tainted blood products as a treatment in the first place way back as a kid in 1988.

I have literally been kept alive and functioning by our volunteers, which is its own amazing story. They've helped extend my life and with that I have resurrected the campaign for justice for the Australian victims of the infected blood scandal.

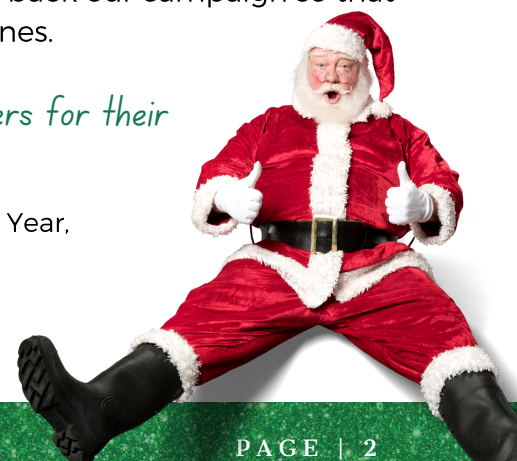
There have been many terrible and tragic things connected to what happened in Australia due to the scandal here. It really has tested me and so many other victims and their loved ones in every conceivable way. But if there is one thing I want to convey to you this festive season, it is that as dark as things have been, some truly wonderful things have happened as well.

Like how other Australians and the volunteers I have mentioned, some of whom with no connection to this issue and nothing to gain, have decided to give up their time to get involved. This ray of light from our volunteers has proven to me what I always knew: Australians are among the most generous people on earth. And when more of our people find out about our nations deadliest medical scandal, tainted blood, with its cover-ups and denials, I am confident they will back our campaign so that justice prevails for Australia's infected blood victims and their loved ones.

From the absolute heart, I want to thank our volunteers and supporters for their generosity and for driving our campaign.

I also would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a very Happy New Year, for we have a thing called '**justice**' to work towards and look forward to.

Charles MacKenzie, President, Infected Blood Australia
Email: cjm@infectedbloodaustralia.com



tell your story

DID YOU RECEIVE A CONTAMINATED BLOOD TRANSFUSION OR BLOOD PRODUCT?

ARE YOU A LOVED ONE OF SOMEONE THAT DID

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE YOUR ACCOUNT OF
WHAT YOUR EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN LIKE?**

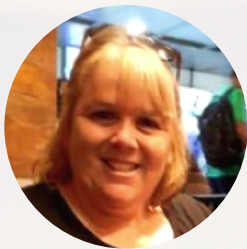
Next year we expect to receive offers for interviews from the media, if you would like us to connect you to journalists wanting to hear accounts from people impacted by contaminated blood please get in touch.

**WE NEED EVERYONE INFECTED & AFFECTED
BY THIS SCANDAL TO GET READY BECAUSE
IN 2022 WE ARE GOING TO MAKE IT
CLEAR THAT THOUSANDS OF
LIVES LOST AND
DESTROYED CANNOT
REMAIN UNINVESTIGATED**

Email Charles MacKenzie at:

cjm@infectedbloodaustralia.com





England and Australia-A Not So Commonwealth

BY SUSANNE WALTERS

In 2004 the United Kingdom established a financial assistance scheme through the NHS. This scheme provides invaluable financial assistance for Hepatitis C victims in two stages - before cirrhosis and, after cirrhosis is diagnosed. All financial assistance is tax free and does not effect any government welfare payments.

Stage 1 Assistance (prior to cirrhosis) provides a tax free lump sum payment of \$91,922. In addition Stage 1 Assistance provides an annual payment of \$34,766 plus a counselling allowance of \$1,650 and a winter fuel allowance of \$1,000. Once the person's health gets worse they can then claim Stage 2 Assistance.

Stage 2 Assistance (cirrhosis, cancer, transplant) provides for a tax free lump sum payment of \$36,768. In addition Stage 2 Assistance provides an annual payment of \$53,000, counselling allowance of \$1,650, winter fuel allowance of \$1,000. If you are sick enough to initially qualify for Stage 2 Assistance you can also claim the Stage 1 payment of \$91,922.

Other discretionary payments may be made for accommodation adaptations, accommodation repairs, car repairs, counselling, dental costs, employment training, funeral prepayment plans, hospital travel costs, mobility aids, motability deposits, respite break and specialist bed and/or mattress.

This financial assistance has been available to UK victims for nearly seventeen years and was not dependent upon a Royal Commission. Imagine where Australian victims would be in terms of physical and mental health if our government had done the same thing since 2004.

Australian victims deserve the same level of assistance as Hepatitis C victims in the UK. Having this financial assistance would make life so much better, enabling sufferers to access and pay for services like alternative therapies, home help, counselling, medical bills and transport. Far too many victims of the infected blood scandal live on the poverty line and this only exacerbates problems like social isolation, post traumatic stress disorders and financial insecurity.

Victims and their supporters should petition Greg Hunt and Scott Morrison demanding the Australian government provide, at a minimum, the same level of financial assistance that citizens in the UK receive. It would take very little time to implement this type of legislation as the Australian government could easily adapt the existing legislation used in the UK.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE UK SCHEME GO TO:

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/england-infected-blood-support-scheme>



WE DESPERATLY NEED YOUR HELP!!!

EMAIL HEALTH AND SHADOW HEALTH MINISTERS



We ask for your support by simply emailing our health & shadow health ministers, calling for a Royal Commission into the infected blood scandal in Australia. Victims and their families deserve answers

greg.hunt.MP@aph.gov.au

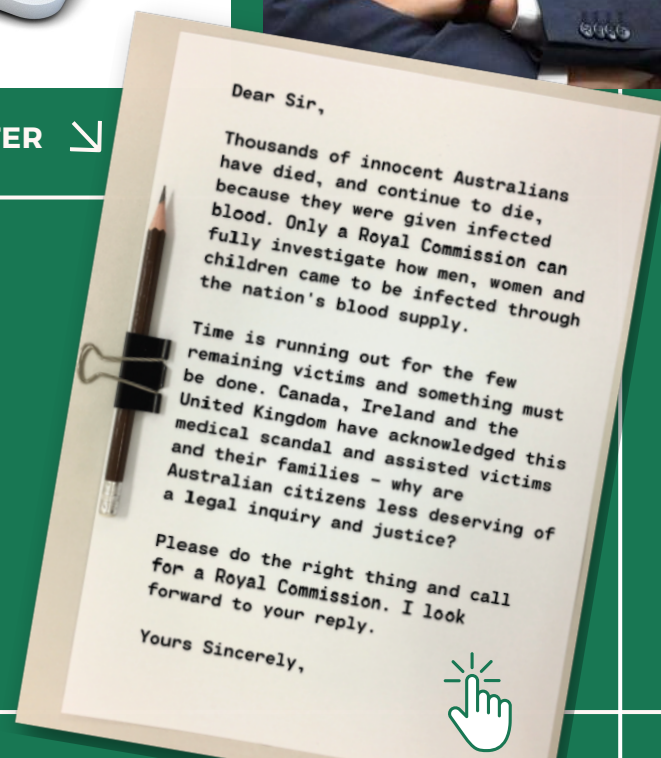
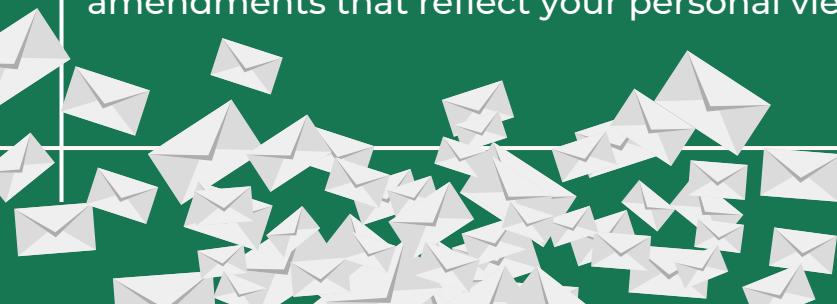
mark.butler.MP@aph.gov.au



↘ **SAMPLE LETTER** ↘

✉ EMAIL HEALTH MINISTER ✉

Please write to Australia's
Health & Shadow Health Ministers above,
help us by using the email letter template
provided - please make any additions or
amendments that reflect your personal view





MICHAEL IMPERATO UPDATE

BY MICHAEL IMPERATO

As we enter 2022 the UK blood inquiry reaches into its 4th year. The fight for such an inquiry in Australia continues and the fact that the UK inquiry is proving so lengthy underlines the need for it in Australia more than ever.

Charles MacKenzie's detailed witness statement to the UK inquiry has been published. As with all witness statements it is initially available to the participants of the inquiry. Then, a few weeks later it will appear on the UK inquiries website. The statement of course tells Charles personal story, but also, the story of the infected blood scandal in Australia.

Meanwhile, back in the UK the inquiry has been focusing on the blood transfusion service. It has been taking witness evidence from heads of services across the country. It will be hearing such evidence into February 2022. The UK government is also consulting separately on a framework for financial compensation or support which, one might think, is bound to follow on when the inquiry ends.

I have been speaking to some lawyers in Australia as to working with them to put legal pressure on the government to hold an Australian inquiry. What clinched the inquiry in the UK was a mix of legal and political pressure, but also the force of will of victims and campaigners. I would urge all victims in Australia to keep hoping and to keep fighting. Anyone with good legal, political and media connections can be of enormous assistance.



In the meantime we can all keep working to achieve for Australia, what has happened, and is happening, in the UK. Australian victims of the world wide infected blood scandal deserve the same voice as their British counterparts.

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE IS ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

We need you to join the conversation with us on [Facebook](#),
or to comment on events as they happen via [Twitter](#).

Or how about joining our 10,000+ followers on [Instagram](#)?

Our [Youtube](#) channel is a must visit if you want to check out the
TV programs that our campaign has been featured in, some of
them are decades old. You'll also be able to view special
announcements made especially for those infected & affected
by Australia's deadliest medical scandal.

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

FOLLOW US:

