

What is ‘inclusion’?

I have been attacked for not holding so-called inclusionary events for the Castlemaine Free University (CFU). Here I rationalise my position and challenge the unvaccinated line, i.e. that the unvaccinated are being segregated and excluded for no good reason by people following government restrictions barring them from inside venues.

Numerous people say the unvaccinated line is legitimate and that we should create, say outdoor, events which are ‘inclusive’ and live our lives as if unvaccinated people are no threat to vaccinated people. I am not against ‘inclusionary events’ or the people who organise or attend them.

But, I am aware that such events exclude a much larger minority of people who are particularly vulnerable in terms of getting Covid-19 and/or becoming more ill and of dying from Covid-19. Their vulnerability might arise from a pre-existing health condition or from social, cultural or economic disadvantages. If they do attend such events they tend to be particularly cautious and are very aware of sticking out wearing strong masks and observing strong distancing protocol, which separates them and can be uncomfortable.

Vaccinated versus unvaccinated

Outspoken unvaccinated people sprout ableist arguments: ‘I won’t get it.’ ‘If I get it, it won’t make me very sick.’ ‘If people ate better food and followed healthier living practices, they would become immune.’ ‘Only weak and aged people’ (who we can do without?) ‘are threatened by it.’ They infer far right framings of certain people as impervious. ‘I’ is more important than ‘we’ as in the community at large for which many of us became vaccinated.

Equally, ableist arguments tend to sideline matters of justice relating to numerous and various people living with disadvantage and in circumstances that make them more vulnerable to get Covid-19 or to get a bad case of it and die. Covid-19 case surges have taxed the health system minimising care and treatment of both those with Covid-19 and those with other conditions that are life-threatening and/or deleterious to everyday living.

The unvaccinated are requiring greater treatment than the vaccinated, with disproportionately negative impacts on the health system:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/jan/21/cdc-covid-vaccine-hospitals-americans>
- https://aci.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/698804/20220113-COVID-19-Monitor.pdf (page 1)
- <https://www.statesman.com/story/news/politics/politifact/2022/01/14/unvaccinated-people-17-times-more-likely-hospitalized/6511901001/>

‘Inclusionary events’ are unlikely to be attended by vulnerable vaccinated people who are a larger proportion of the community than the unvaccinated. They won’t attend because being exposed to unvaccinated people is a real, not simply perceived, threat to them.

Here is a sample of articles referring to multiple and various data supporting the proposition that unvaccinated people are more likely to transmit Covid-19 than vaccinated people.

- <https://theconversation.com/no-vaccinated-people-are-not-just-as-infectious-as-unvaccinated-people-if-they-get-covid-171302>
- <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-12-04/covid-transmission-risk-unvaccinated-christmas/100673262>
- <https://www.aap.com.au/factcheck/claim-the-unvaccinated-pose-no-greater-covid-19-risk-needs-a-check-up/>
- <https://www.vu.edu.au/about-vu/news-events/news/no-vaccinated-people-are-not-just-as-infectious-as-unvaccinated-people-if-they-get-covid>

The black (w)hole

Drawing on recent conversations that I have had with people such as David Holmgren, Su Dennett, Meg Ulman and Patrick Jones, the unvaccinated line discounts these arguments saying that government and health agencies are not collecting proper data, even deliberately hiding and contorting data, because they want to keep authoritarian control over us.

They say, contra the arguments in the articles above, that vaccinated people are more likely to transmit Covid-19 than the unvaccinated.

They say that more people have died from vaccinations than from Covid-19, again arguing that data proving their position is being wilfully ignored, discounted and/or withheld from us.

Still they have massive numbers of references to particular studies and various people supporting their claims. I have read some of the references and found lots of holes in them.

They say that Covid-19 was artificially created in a laboratory in Wuhan in a United States and Chinese collaboration with the intention of releasing it so that states could control their populaces and big pharmaceutical companies could experiment on people with so-called vaccines and make lots of money that way. The state and companies are acting in unison. This is not a conspiracy, they say, it is ‘the truth’. Unless we rise up against governments and companies refusing vaccinations everything will be lost. The current situation is unprecedented in human history.

CFU position

There are difficulties collecting and drawing conclusions from data, but the kinds of articles cited above persuade me more than the unvaccinated line. I want CFU events to be open to the greatest proportion of people possible. Notwithstanding my own critiques of government directives, I will continue to hold the safest events possible based on health directives.