

**The Citizens of the
Member State
of Australia**
**In the absence of due process
and Democracy**

1 December 2023

World Health Organization
WHO Headquarters in Geneva
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva
Switzerland

BY EMAIL: drtedros@who.int

Attention: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, WHO

Dear Mr Ghebreyesus

REJECTION OF THE ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS [WHA75.12](#)

1. The people of the democratic Member State of Australia expressly rejects WHA75.12 pursuant to Article 61, 2005 International Health Regulations on the basis that Australia has failed to follow due process with respect to the amendments to the 2005 International Health Regulations WHA75.2.
2. WHA75.12 proposes amendments to Article 59 (and consequential amendments to Articles 55, 61, 62 and 63), which would have the effect of reducing the time for:
 - a. rejection of any future amendments to the 2005 IHR from 18 months to 10 months; and
 - b. implementation of future changes into our domestic law from 24 months to 12 months,

(WHA75.12).
3. We, the people of Australia, state unequivocally that it is necessary to reject WHA75.12 as:
 - a. full opportunity for public consultation and submissions from stakeholders has not been granted with respect to WHA75.12;

- b. no consideration has been given to the further [300+ amendments currently in draft with the IHR Working Group](#)¹ (**300+ Amendments**) for anticipated distribution by you to the member states in January 2024 (in compliance with Article 55, 2005 International Health Regulations and Decision [WHA75\(9\)](#));
- c. key committee members of the relevant government committee (Australia's [Joint Standing Committee on Treaties \(JSCT\)](#) responsible for public consultation and reviewing the effect of the WHA75.12 amendments were not aware that they had even considered the amendments and reported to the government - JSCT's review of the Article 59 IHRA amendments are buried in JSCT's [Report 210](#) headed *Timor-Leste Cooperation in the Field of Defence and the Status of Visiting Forces* table 3 August 2023 - a title which, on the face of it, fails to identify the International Health Regulations;
- d. the burying of the WHA75.12 in Report 210 in the manner it was done means that Australia's democratic elected representatives, ie the Senate² and the House of Representatives³ were not given the opportunity to consider, engage or properly vote on the Article 59 International Health Regulations and subsequent amendments outlined in WHA75.12 - such that neither House appears to have considered the Article 59 IHR amendments, albeit Report 210 appears to have been [voted upon](#).
4. The rejection is necessary, as due process has not been followed. The Australian government has been misled or deceived by the relevant department not bringing the details of WHA75.12 to the voting government's attention.
5. Further, the shortened time frames in the WHA75.12 are insufficient for Australia to obtain submissions from stakeholders and the public on the WHA75.12 but also to properly consider the 300 + Amendments or their impact on our domestic legislation and the people of Australia. Nor would there be sufficient time to publicly consult on matters for future binding treaty actions.

¹ https://apps.who.int/gb/wgihhr/pdf_files/wgihhr1/WGIHR_Compilation-en.pdf

² Hansard, Senate, 3 August 2023, see page 74: https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/chamber/hansards/27117/toc_pdf/Senate_2023_08_03.pdf.fileType=application%2Fpdf

³ Hansard, House of Representatives, 3 August 2023, see page 10: https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/chamber/hansardr/27157/toc_pdf/House%20of%20Representatives_2023_08_03.pdf.fileType=application%2Fpdf

6. Finally, a last important consideration, the Australia's Royal Commission Inquiry into the COVID-19 Pandemic Response would not be finalised until certainly well after the likely adoption of the substantial 300+ Amendments at the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly at the end of May 2024.
7. It is for these reasons, we must advise you of Australia's rejection of the WHA75.12.
8. It is, therefore, pertinent for Us, on behalf of our nation and our misled government to ensure they have all the information necessary to make an informed vote on WHA75.12 and that we have the maximum amount of time available to consider any future wide-ranging amendments.

Yours sincerely

Citizens and Permanent Residents of Australia

We, the people of the member state of Australia