

**Committee:** WHO

**Subject:** Bioethics, transhumanism, vaccinations, towards a new deal in global health?

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The Australian Government believes that international cooperation in the health sector has become as important as ever at a time of radical innovation and huge technological advancements in the pharmaceutical industry. There is a need for a global response to increasing health risks, including pandemics, and due to rapidly advancing climate change, increasing globalization and the spread of zoonotic pathogens.

In a time where a global health crisis meets major scientific breakthroughs, such as the constant and rapid development of AI, we believe a “New Deal in Global Health” is the key to strengthening international response to health emergencies and determine a framework of regulations and reforms to tackle any abuse of new technology and ethically disputable procedures while still encouraging scientific progress (e.g. through the international protocol on gene modification established in 2026).

In addition to the National Immunization Program (NIP), which provides free vaccines to eligible Australian citizens, including children, pregnant women, and adults at risk of specific diseases, Australia is eager to take part in international vaccination campaigns and supports the WHO's efforts to eradicate diseases like measles and polio.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the necessity of strengthening international response to future pandemics and the importance of vaccinations, which Australia considers a public health priority in line with the WHO's Immunization Agenda 2030, its main purpose being to save lives through vaccination while putting an emphasis on equal access, delivery and biomedical innovation (see mRNA and viral vector vaccines). The Australian Authorities believe that this agenda should be imperatively implemented for all countries, as it has already been achieved by Australia and a number of other countries (see implementation report issued in March 2030).

Australia's pharmaceutical industry is setting global standards for innovation and quality, working together with pharmaceutical giants including Astra Zeneca, Pfizer, Merck and Novartis. At the same time, it is one of the world's top 10 contributors to life sciences research.

The country is prioritizing WHO ethical standards and procedures for research with human beings and implementing normative guidance to address ethical challenges in global health (see “Australian Government's National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research”, last updated in 2028). The government encourages research that could result in improvements in medicine, but it places a strong emphasis on informed consent, protecting privacy, and avoiding discrimination based on genetic information.

Australia is a signatory to international agreements such as the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights and participates in global bioethics discussions through organizations such as the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee.

In conclusion, Australia is working closely with the WHO and international partners to reform the global health systems to enhance our collective capabilities to prevent, prepare for and respond to future pandemics and health emergencies, while implementing appropriate measures to address the needs of population around the world, especially the vulnerable groups.