



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care

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Mr Ken O'Dowd MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
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Dear Chair 

I refer to your correspondence of 18 October 2021 concerning EN3128 requesting the disclosure of the COVID-19 vaccine ingredients.

The safety of the Australian population has always been the highest priority of the Australian Government. For this reason, decisions regarding COVID-19 vaccines have been guided by the expert medical advice of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

The Government is working closely with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the ATAGI and all state and territory health departments to ensure that monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine safety is of the highest possible standard in Australia.

The TGA formally assesses the safety, quality and efficacy of medicines, including vaccines, prior to their approval for use in Australia. All vaccines must pass the TGA's rigorous assessment and approval processes, after being tested in large clinical trials on thousands of people. Technical experts analyse the three phases of clinical trials test for safety at every phase, as well as how effective the vaccine is at protecting against infection and/or disease.

All COVID-19 vaccines used in the rollout have been granted provisional approval following a complete assessment of all this available data. No part of the process has been rushed and the TGA does not have an 'Emergency Use Authorisation' pathway for COVID-19 vaccines.

The TGA is open and transparent about safety information relating to COVID-19 vaccines, including any suspected side effects or potential safety issues. The TGA publishes a weekly safety report, including information about reported suspected side effects, as well as other safety alerts as required. More information can be found at: www.tga.gov.au using the search terms 'COVID-19-vaccine safety monitoring and reporting'.

Although graphene oxide may serve as a potential vaccine carrier to help activate immunity, none of the COVID-19 vaccines approved and in use in Australia include graphene oxide. The AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria), Pfizer, and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine Product Information (PI) leaflets are publicly available on the TGA website, listing the ingredients in each vaccine. The PIs are required as supporting documents for regulatory approval. None of the PI's for these vaccines list graphene oxide as an ingredient and is therefore not present.

The goal is to protect all people in Australia from the harm caused COVID-19 infection, through preventing serious illness and death, and where possible, disease transmission. The Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccines have all been proven through approval and safety monitoring processes to be very effective at reducing severe illness, hospitalisation and death.

From 1 October 2021, all Australians aged 12 years and over are now eligible to receive a COVID 19 vaccine. Australians aged 60 years and over are now eligible to receive a Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, while those aged 18 years or over can choose to have the AstraZeneca vaccine after providing informed consent.

It is important for Australians to have access to credible and timely information about COVID-19 vaccines. It is a large and complex project, and the information you are seeking may change over time – that is why we strongly encourage all Australians stay up-to-date on all news and announcements, by regularly checking my Department's website at: www.health.gov.au.

Vaccination remains the most effective way for people to protect themselves from the effects of COVID-19. The Government encourages everyone to be vaccinated as soon as they are eligible.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Greg Hunt