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INTERNATIONAL EXPERT DR JAY BHATTACHARYA WELCOMES IPA COVID RESPONSE RESEARCH

"The simple fact is our governments got it wrong. Contemporary warnings issued by Dr Bhattacharya, and his colleagues should have been heeded and the pain and suffering of our failed COVID response avoided," said Scott Hargreaves, Executive Director of the Institute of Public Affairs.

At today's launch of the IPA's two ground-breaking research papers on the impact of Australia's failed response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Dr Jay Bhattacharya of Stanford University welcomed the research.

"Australian states, like Victoria, were not alone in adopting lockdowns, but now they should be honest in accounting and acknowledging the harm done," said Professor Bhattacharya.

"Lockdowns closed schools and playgrounds, shuttered businesses, and barred international travel. They forced elderly people to die alone and prevented families from gathering to honour their elders' passing. Lockdowns cancelled screening and even treatment for cancer patients and made sure that diabetics skipped their check-ups and regular exercise."

Introduced by former Prime Minister and IPA Distinguished Fellow Tony Abbott, Professor Bhattacharya is currently in Australia to discuss his work with Collateral Global.

Collateral Global is an international organisation dedicated to researching the effectiveness and impacts of Mandated Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions taken by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Scott Hargreaves said that while we cannot live in the past, we must learn the lessons of Australia's failed COVID response.

"IPA research has confirmed that the lockdowns and restrictions have had a far greater impact on life and our economy than the pandemic itself," said Mr Hargreaves.

"We cannot live in the past forever and must rebuild. However, we must also learn the hard lessons from Australia's failed COVID response to ensure these gross errors never happen again. We deserve to know what went on during the pandemic and only a joint Royal Commission including the Commonwealth and State Government can achieve this."

[Click here to download *Hard lessons: Reckoning the Economic, Social, and Humanitarian costs of Zero-Covid*](#)

[Click here to download *The Crime of Criminalising Everyday Life: The Rule of Law Discarded in Victoria's COVID Response*](#)

For media and comment: Andrew Hudgson, Director of Communications, on 0404 020 896, or at ahudgson@ipa.org.au

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Editor's note:

Professor Jay Bhattacharya, Professor of Medicine, Senior Fellow at The Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research and Professor, by courtesy, of Economics, Stanford University.

Dr. Bhattacharya has an MD and PhD in Economics, both from Stanford University. His research focuses on the economics of health care around the world with a particular emphasis on the health and well-being of vulnerable populations.

Along with Professor Sunetra Gupta and Professor Martin Kulldorff, he was the author of the 2020 Great Barrington Declaration ([see here](#)), which stated clearly *“Those who are not vulnerable should immediately be allowed to resume life as normal.”*

Stanford University is consistently ranked among the top 5 Universities in the world.