

## REPORT OF GLOBAL HEALTH ROUNDTABLE MEETING



**Professor Sir Edward Byrne AC**  
Chairman  
Australian Advisory Council, The Global Foundation; Group Chief Medical Officer Ramsay Health Care



**Louise Watson**  
Chairman  
The Global Foundation



**Pascal Lamy**  
President of the  
Paris Peace Forum



**Professor Sir Robert Lechler**  
Senior Vice President/Provost (Health) and Executive Director of King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre



**Professor Patricia Davidson**  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Wollongong



**Andrea Brandolini**  
Deputy Director General for Economics, Statistics & Research  
Bank of Italy (G20)



**Paul Bloxham**  
Chief Economist (Australia, New Zealand & Global Commodities)  
HSBC

The speakers of the Global Foundation's Global Health Roundtable meeting, held via Zoom, 5th August 2021

*"We live in a global village; we are all collective to each other in one way or another."*

On Thursday 5th August the Global Foundation convened the *Global Health Roundtable* via Zoom. Involving over 40 attendees and expert speakers, the discussion was a timely assessment of how the world will live with endemic Covid-19. The appendix contains the names of attendees.

### Context

The world has been on a journey together over the past 18 months that no one could have seen coming. Although each nation has been challenged in different ways, we are united by a common foe – the Covid-19 virus.

As it becomes more apparent that we will not rid ourselves of this threat, we must acknowledge the lessons learned, continue to build on our advancements, and prepare ourselves to better deal with future pandemics.

Secretary General of the Global Foundation Steve Howard and Chairman Louise Watson commenced the session by acknowledging the significant collaboration and contribution made by scientists and medical professionals across the globe over the past 18 months. This important health discussion poignantly reflects the motto of the Foundation, **"Together, we strive for the common good"**.

The meeting focused on three components:

- **The global health response to Covid-19**
- **Geopolitics: Health & the economy are intrinsically linked**
- **Where to from here?**

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### 2021 GLOBAL HEALTH ROUNDTABLE

#### HIGH LEVEL ANALYSIS

by Kate Burke

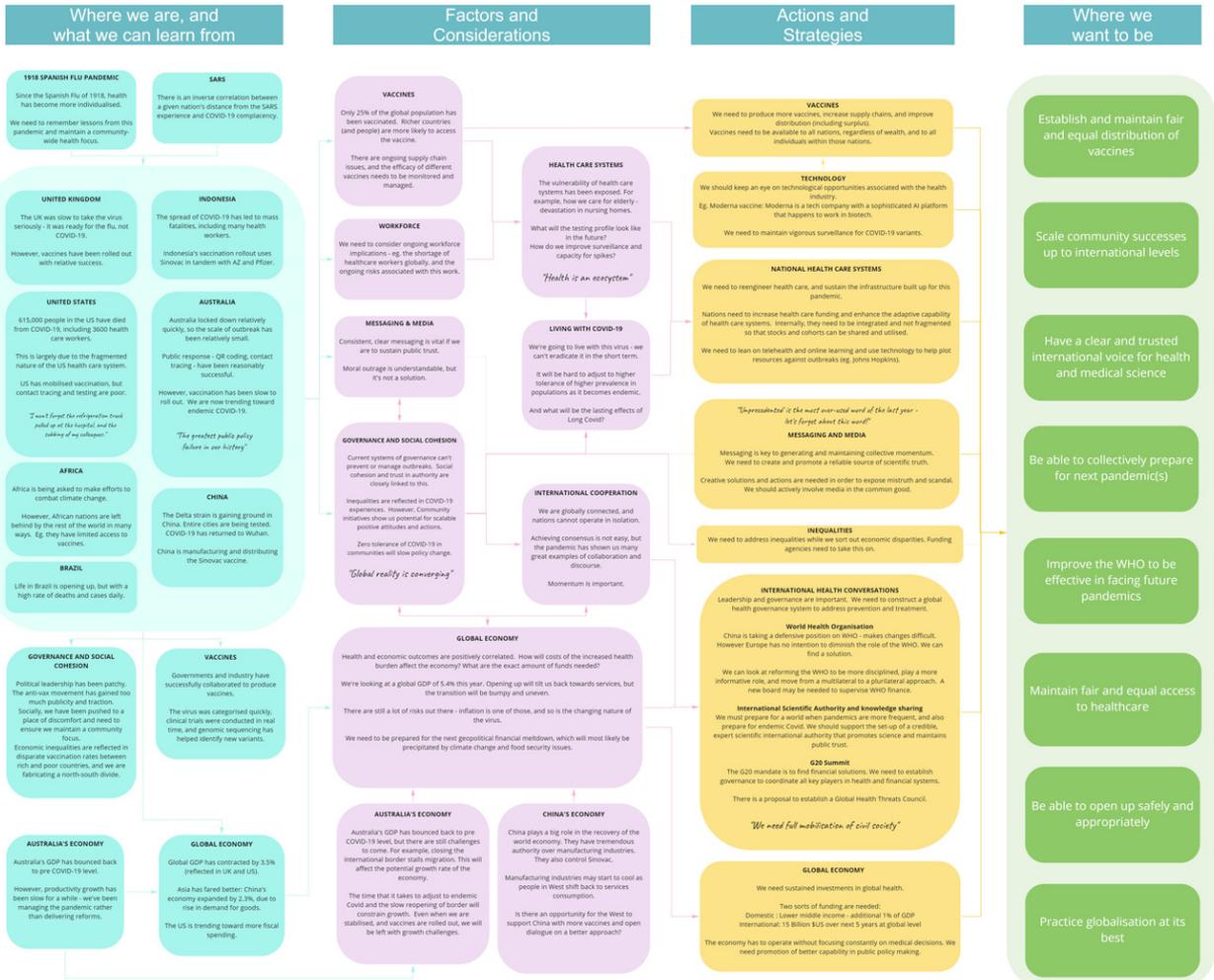
This high level dialogue analysis explores the ways in which participants' contributions can inform a long-term collaborative roadmap.

This map does not necessarily read as a logical pathway, but rather as a description of the connections between ideas described during the dialogue.

The "Where we are, and what we can learn from" section (in blue) describes our current state, and lessons to be learned from history.

"Factors and Considerations" (in pink) are things to think about when assessing potential "Actions and Strategies", which are articulated in the orange section.

The "Where we want to be" green section on the right describes the group's common goals, at a high level.



*'A scientific tour de force'*

## Global Health Response to Covid-19

It was clear that all present were extremely impressed to witness the medical and pharmaceutical global industries move quicker than ever and work together to achieve a positive vaccine result. In addition, the high volume of genome cluster research and clinical trials to assess treatment effectiveness has been a great global achievement. However, the incredible speed of virus transmission, heavy fatality rate as well as vaccine hesitancy has highlighted significant health inequalities in society. The mistreatment of the elderly in nursing homes, who bore the brunt of this

virus globally, has come to the fore in both the USA and in Australia.

It is very clear that a lot of ground was lost within political leadership leading up to the pandemic and that a well-coordinated technological and scientific effort was needed from the get go. Social cohesion is vital going forward as we **'enter a phase of endemic covid which will last for some years.'**

Australia benefited from its isolation and closed borders leading to a minimal impact early on however needed a more prepared vaccination program in place. It has therefore been the mirror reverse of the UK journey through Covid-19 where the leadership response was slow and relied on a circuit breaker, a successful vaccination rollout.

Technology has played a vital role in the management of health care and scientific research throughout the pandemic. Data has led to direct decision making and the use of AI has been at the forefront of allocating resources, ICU management and even in the creation of the Moderna vaccine. Embracing telehealth and digital education resources has been a remarkable success and has led to resilient citizens.

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## Health & Economics are intrinsically linked

It has become particularly apparent that world economics is deeply linked to the health situation and in turn the disparity in vaccine access between rich and poor nations has been extreme. It was the view of the meeting that a unified effort must be made to provide access to vaccines to poorer nations in need.

***“Global vaccine apartheid needs to be addressed but if not addressed it will have major implications.”***

The roundtable participants recognised that eventually a degree of global immunity will be reached with endemic Covid-19 however, voiced concern for Indonesia and Africa in particular, who will face dire outcomes if the western world does not act fast in sharing vaccine.

***“We are fabricating an enormous divide.”***

In terms of pandemic infrastructure and preparedness, it appears certain businesses were partially prepared for a pandemic but not on this scale. It was agreed that we need to increase production of the vaccine and this production needs to take place in the countries that need it to ensure broader distribution. Importantly, the lessons learned from supply chain interruptions have become paramount.

The mobilisation of civic society alongside the WHO and in partnership with international leaders will become essential in maintaining global economic stability and to concretely close the gaps in global health protection.

***“We need full mobilisation of both leaders and global corporate businesses, and we need bold and sustained national, regional, and global investments in normal times.”***

## Preparing for the future – where to from here?

***“History doesn’t repeat itself but moves in parallel tracks”.***

This once in 100-year pandemic draws comparisons to the Spanish Flu however, this time around we must not lose the valuable knowledge gained. The meeting was confident that the continued global collaboration between scientists, pharma, health care and leaders would mean we will be in a better position next time. In particular, Australian citizens now must adapt their mindset to living with endemic Covid-19 which will raise further questions on what daily life will look like with the virus in the community. Whilst opening the borders will allow Australia to have a positive economy it will be some time away.

The meeting recognised that an international authority with ***“consistent, clear messaging will be vital for public trust”*** going forward. The spread of misinformation has hampered vaccination rates in some areas of the world and must be addressed. For the world to unite in its adjustment to living with Covid-19 an increase in vaccination rates across the world, not just in wealthy nations was absolutely vital. This will lead to lower fatalities, open borders and secure economic development. We will reach the other side of this pandemic and once we adjust our perspective it will all come down to global ***“collaboration, cooperation and cohesion.”***



## ATTENDEES LIST

**Professor Eleanor Beck**, Discipline Leader Nutrition and Dietetics, School of Medicine, University of Wollongong

**Ms Zhao Bing**, Chinese Embassy

**Mr Paul Bloxham**, Chief Economist, (Australia, New Zealand & Global Commodities), HSBC

**Mr Andrea Brandolini**, Deputy Director General for Economics, Statistics & Research, Bank of Italy (G20)

**Ms Jillian Broadbent AC**, Member of the Australian Advisory Council, the Global Foundation

**Ms Kate Burke**, Design Lead & Research Strategist; Science Communicator, 12th Level

**Professor Sir Edward Byrne**, Chairman, Australian Advisory Council, The Global Foundation; Group Chief Medical Officer, Ramsay Health Care

**Mr Richard Cogswell SC**, Casual Academic Staff, School of Law, University of Wollongong

**Professor Julia Coyle**, Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Wollongong

**Ms Lucy d'Arville**, Partner Sydney Office, Bain & Company

**Professor Patricia Davidson**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Wollongong

**Professor Bruce Dowton**, Vice-Chancellor and President, Macquarie University

**Archbishop Philip Freier**, Archbishop of Melbourne, Anglican Diocese of Melbourne; Former Chairman of the Australian Advisory Council, the Global Foundation

**Mr Raffaella Giannini**, Assistant to Ignazio Visco, Governor of the Bank of Italy

**Mr Rob Hadler**, Member of the Australian Advisory Council, The Global Foundation

**Ms Carolyn Hewson AO**, Independent Non-executive Director, CSL

**Sr Adele Howard**, Integral Ecology Advisory Group, Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea

**Mr Steve Howard**, Secretary General, The Global Foundation

**Mr Dean Jenkins**, CEO, MaxiTRANS

**Mr Rob Knott**, Chairman, GHD

**Mr Pascal Lamy**, President, Paris Peace Forum; Former Director General, World Trade Organisation

**Ms Sheridan Lee**, Australian Representative, Amundi

**Professor Sir Robert Lechler**, Senior Vice President/Provost (Health) and Executive Director of King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre,

**The Hon Jeannie Lopes**, UK Ambassador, Advance

**Dr Alan T Maccarone**, Technical Officer, School of Chemistry & Molecular Bioscience, University of Wollongong

**Ms Karen McLennan**, Business Strategy & Design Consultant, 12th Level

**Ms Juliana Cavaliere Goncalves Peloché**, University of Wollongong

**Mr Murray Prior**, International Director & Global Head of Business, King & Wood Mallesons

**Ms Harriet Simpson-Southward**, University of Wollongong

**Ms Suzanne Sequoia**, Design Research Assistant, 12th Level

**Mr Matthew Swinn**, Managing Partner, Dispute Resolution and Tax, King & Wood Mallesons

**Professor Linda C Tapsell**, Honorary Professorial Fellow, School of Medicine, University of Wollongong

**Mr David Thodey AO**, Chair, CSIRO

**Mr Shaun Treacy**, Adani Australia Representative, Adani Australia

**Ms Wendy Tyrrell**, Executive Director, Development Partner Institute

**Ms Louise Watson**, Chairman of the Board, The Global Foundation

**Mr Andrew Wear**, Director, Economic Development and International at the City of Melbourne

**Professor Paul Wellings CBE**, Member of the Board, The Global Foundation

**Ms Melanie Wilson**, Compliance Officer, University of Wollongong

**Mr Ashley Wright**, Enterprise Chief Executive Officer, GHD