

**From:** [DLO](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [DLO](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** MS21-000984 - PM to Frewen - Coordinator General of National COVID Vaccine Taskforce [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 June 2021 5:24:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [MS21-000984 - PM to Frewen - Coordinator General of National COVID Vaccine Taskforce.pdf](#)

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## OFFICIAL

Good evening John,

The Prime Minister has signed the attached letter.

Hard will return to PMC for posting.

Debbie. [REDACTED] – grateful if you can distribute to SCNS members. I will send to all others that have been copied.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] | Departmental Liaison Officer  
Office of the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP  
MG 8, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600  
[REDACTED]

# OFFICIAL



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MS21-000984

8 JUN 2021

Lieutenant General John Frewen DSC AM  
Defence COVID-19 Taskforce  
Department of Defence  
RUSSELL ACT 2600

Dear Lieutenant General Frewen

As you are aware, the Government is moving into a new phase in the response to the COVID pandemic and is stepping up its vaccine rollout program.

As part of this new phase, I am asking that you take on the role of Co-ordinator General of the National COVID Vaccine Taskforce.

As Co-ordinator General, you will have direct operational control of all relevant assets and resources across all Commonwealth government departments and agencies engaged in the direction and implementation of the national COVID vaccination program. Among other things, you will be responsible for communication around the vaccine rollout, engagement with states and territories, distribution and delivery of vaccines, engagement with health providers including hospitals, GPs, Aboriginal Health Services and pharmacies, and engagement with key community stakeholders, business groups, and unions.

In performing these functions, you will be responsible directly to me and the Minister for Health. Accordingly, communications should be jointly addressed to both of us and coordination should occur with both of our offices simultaneously. I expect that you will attend meetings of the National Cabinet to provide briefings to First Ministers. I also expect that you will engage with the First Secretaries Group through its Chair Phil Gaetjens, Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, to ensure proper co-ordination with the states and territories.

The goals of the National COVID Vaccine Taskforce are to ensure public confidence in the vaccine rollout and ensure as many Australians are vaccinated as early as possible within the TGA guidelines and available vaccine supply. Achievement of these goals will also ensure Australia's economy is well-supported and our international borders are opened as quickly as possible. My expectation is that a direct command and control structure, with you as Co-ordinator General, will ensure that these goals are met.

I have discussed this matter with the Chief of the Defence Force, and I have his agreement to these arrangements. I understand the necessary measures will be put in place within the Australian Defence Force to give effect to this tasking.

I expect that the necessary resources and assets will be put at your disposal by the Australian Public Service. I ask that you work closely with both the Secretary of the Department of Health, Dr Brendan Murphy, and Australian Public Service Commissioner, Peter Woolcott AO, to ensure that you have the support you require.

I have copied this letter to the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, the Minister for Defence, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, the Chief of the Defence Force, General Angus Campbell, Secretary of the Department of Health, Dr Brendan Murphy and Australian Public Service Commissioner, Peter Woolcott AO. I have also copied this letter to members of the National Security Committee, and members of the Secretaries Committee on National Security.

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SCOTT MORRISON