



## **Dr Monique Ryan seeks transparency on multibillion dollar vaccine deal**

Time is running out for the Albanese government to respond to a disallowance motion moved by Independent MP for Kooyong, Dr Monique Ryan, demanding greater transparency around its multibillion dollar deal with vaccine producer Moderna.

In late 2021, as it struggled with its embarrassment at having left Australia at the back of the COVID19 vaccine queue, the Morrison government rushed a secret deal with Moderna to produce vaccines in Australia.

The deal, which has since been endorsed by the Albanese government, allows Moderna to access bespoke approval pathways for pandemic and non-pandemic vaccines without the competitive tender processes, procurement rules, merit review and PBAC assessment required for other vaccines. It's unclear why the Albanese government is supporting a secretive Morrison-era contract which creates a significant competitive disadvantage for other vaccine producers, and which could act as a disincentive for manufacturers considering entering our market.

The arrangement should be revised, to ensure a level-playing field for the best Australian and global companies to research, develop, and manufacture the best medicines for Australians, in Australia.

### **Quotes from Dr Monique Ryan, Independent Member for Kooyong:**

"I'm seeking to shine a light on this secret deal, to ensure Australians get value for money and that other medicine manufacturers aren't put off from investing in Australia because of a competitive disadvantage. Taxpayers deserve to know what the government signed up for in 2021, and what we can expect to be delivered in 2025 and beyond."

"Secretive sweetheart deals with industry are a disincentive to local competitors and could be a deterrent to overseas companies considering capitalising on Australia's medical research expertise by investing locally in the research and development required to bring new and improved products to our market."

"Australians deserve access to best quality, affordable medicines. Our government's role is to attract investment in the sector, support domestic production transparently and with equity, fund medical research adequately, build the ideal medical and research workforces, and speed up approval processes for new life-changing treatments."

"We need the government to act in the public's best interest and with transparency. I'm calling on the Albanese government to justify its support for this secret deal on the floor of Parliament."