

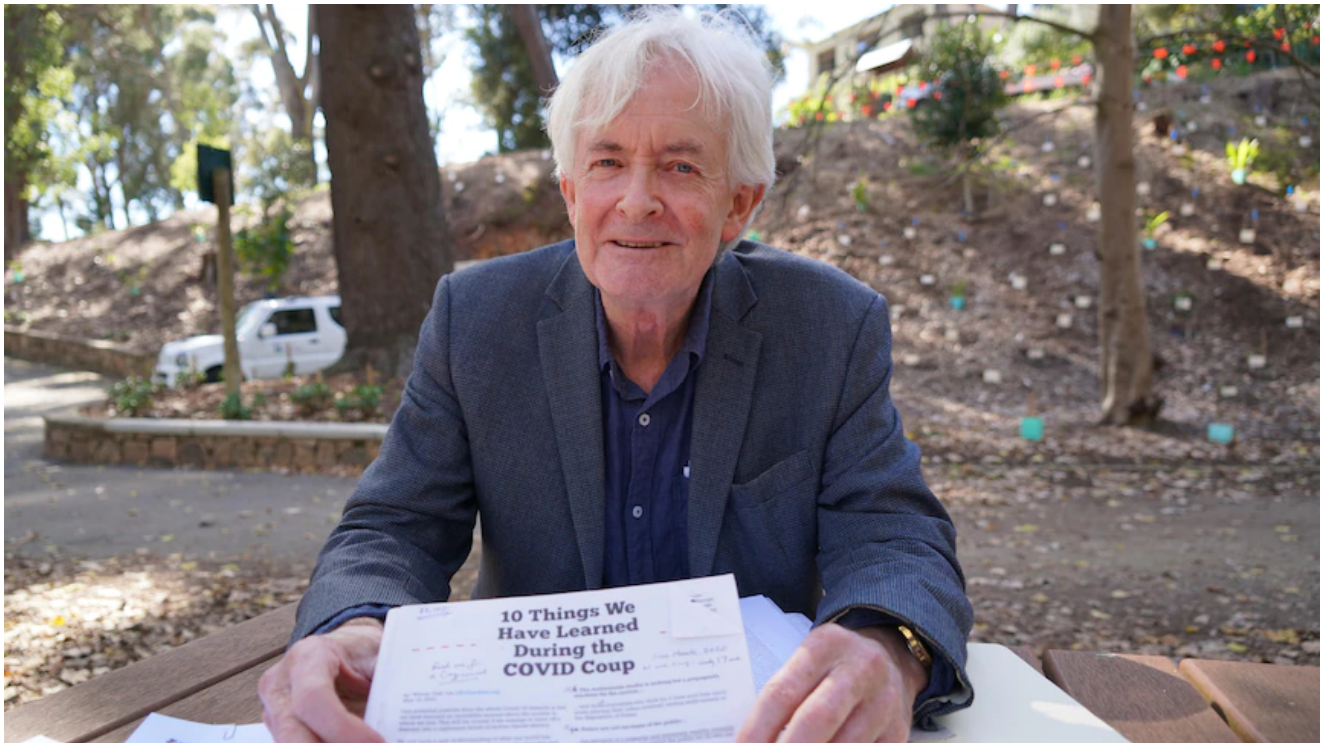
# COVID-19 is accelerating the rise of conspiracy and sovereign citizen movements in Australia

[abc.net.au/news/2021-08-21/covid-19-accelerating-rise-of-conspiracy-movements-in-australia/100393666](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-08-21/covid-19-accelerating-rise-of-conspiracy-movements-in-australia/100393666)

20 August 2021

By [Eric Tlozek](#)

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Graham Lyons opposes COVID-19 control measures. (ABC News: Eric Tlozek)

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Graham Lyons does not think the COVID-19 pandemic is real, and he is willing to go to jail to prove it.

## Key points:

- Experts say there's been a rise in people spreading anti-government ideology online
- Researchers have noticed growth in fringe legal and sovereign citizen movements in Australia
- COVID-19 restrictions have increased interest in those types of groups

The experienced agricultural scientist, whose career includes a PhD in the field of micronutrients, is facing potential prosecution for failing to take COVID-19 tests.

He has also refused to wear a mask and will not sign-in to businesses he visits.

"The government has no right to track the citizenry like that," he told the ABC.

| "I stand up against it, I don't acquiesce to that and if it gets me into jail, so be it.

"I am putting everything I've got into this because I don't want my little granddaughter growing up in a techno-fascist dystopia."

[Catch up on the main COVID-19 news from Sunday, December 12, with a look back at our blog](#)

Dr Lyons's work relates to agriculture in public health — he is not a medical specialist — but he said he had nevertheless concluded that vaccination was ineffective and, like many others opposed to COVID-19 controls, believed the pandemic was a front for organisations and individuals advancing a "globalist agenda to institute a world government".

"The whole thing is fraudulent," he said.

"You've got a global cabal behind this.

"I call them 'global parasites' who think they own the world and everyone else should pay obeisance to them."

Dr Lyons believes the same group has previously made major attempts to control and change society, but that COVID-19 is their biggest challenge to his way of life, one that must be resisted.

"This is the big one. We've got to win this, otherwise we're f\*\*\*\*d," he said.

Australia's Red Ensign has become prominent during anti-lockdown protests, and has been adopted by sovereign citizens.*(ABC News: Scott Mitchell)*

Dr Lyons has a job, pays tax, and said he was opposed to violence.

He said he was not part of any organised group.

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