

Friday, 25 March 2022

## Public Statement: Prohibition Order – Ms Matilda Bawden

The Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner (HCSCC) Associate Professor Grant Davies has issued a [Prohibition Order](#) against Ms Matilda Bawden, a social worker.

The permanent order follows an investigation conducted by the HCSCC about Ms Bawden and statements she made about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines in emails sent on 7 April 2021 and 31 May 2021 respectively in her capacity as a social worker.

The HCSCC had previously issued [interim prohibition orders](#) against Ms Bawden. The interim orders were revoked, and the permanent order started yesterday.

The investigation found that Ms Bawden breached multiple clauses of the [Code of Conduct for Certain Health Care Workers](#) and accordingly, she is prohibited from:

- Providing health education and/or providing information relating to COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines.

Associate Professor Davies said the investigation found Ms Bawden had provided manifestly false and misleading claims about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines.

“In her email dated 7 April 2021, Ms Bawden said she would be suspending services for a month with service providers, consumers, family and friends who received a COVID-19 vaccine,” he said.

“She inferred that a person who received a COVID-19 vaccine could ‘shed’ and cause others to contract COVID-19 and the risk from a COVID-19 vaccine was greater than the virus itself.

“The Australian Government Department of Health advises none of the approved vaccines in Australia contain the live virus and this means they cannot infect you with COVID-19.

“In her email dated 31 May 2021, Ms Bawden provided false statistics about deaths attributable to COVID-19 vaccines. She stated that until 23 May 2021, there had been 210 COVID-19 vaccine deaths in Australia.

“The Therapeutic Goods Administration advises that up until 23 May 2021, apart from a single Australian case in which death was linked to Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome, COVID-19 vaccines had not been found to cause death.

“At that point of time, 3.6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been given in Australia.

“I consider Ms Bawden, in the capacity of a health care worker, provided false and misleading health information about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines and by doing so did not act in a safe and ethical manner.

“I also believe Ms Bawden is not qualified to provide information about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines.

“If people were to rely on Ms Bawden’s information and not get vaccinated against COVID-19, they would be at greater risk of harm or death than they would be if they did get vaccinated.”

Ms Bawden can continue to offer social work services so long as she does not breach the terms of the Prohibition Order.