

2024-05-22 - Graham and John speak with Ange Shearman...

Well, hi everyone, and it's Wednesday, the 22nd of May, and we owe you all an apology because a lot of you have been saying, wherever you guys been, well, it's not my fault. It's Johnny's fault because he's never home. And he's always off doing things like going to court and facing the IRC and doing a whole lot of other stuff.

And I've been really crook as a lot of, you know, I've struggled with my voice a lot in the last few weeks, but I'm, I'm, I'm back on top now. And we have, I've been up since three o'clock this morning, John, as you probably saw by the interviews lining up. Sorry, by the email lining up some interviews for this week.

We've got 12 interviews to do in the space of five days, which will spread out and some of them are amazing. And so we look forward to this interview in particular as well as we have an incredibly brave lady on the program. John, we, um, we both, she works for my former employer, Qantas. She's an onboard manager with Qantas and, um, did we ever fly together, Ange?

I'm not too sure. A couple of times. A couple of times a very, a very long time ago, yes. I've been flying 23 years. Yeah, it seems like a very long time ago to me, I can tell you, but, uh, yeah, I was on the 737 and you're flying to Sydney first thing in the morning, so we want you to be fresh for that. Um, and, um, yeah, good to share some stuff about Qantas.

It's not all bad. We must say that right at the beginning, we had some great times there. I had some great times there and there's, there's wonderful people who work for Qantas. And anyhow, we'll unpack that a bit later on, but, and you're here because you have stepped out very strongly. In support of, of a tragedy that's going on and it's been ramped up in the last four years because of lockdowns.

We know this to be true because of teenagers are seeing as a loss of opportunity and destiny throughout the country, if not the world, because of the way the world's been managed through various issues that we're dealing with at the moment, your beautiful 16 year old boy, Louie, who'd probably be nearly 20 now, 21 in, 21 in October.

21 in October, um, took his own life four years ago and, um, and I've seen you, uh, interviewed by your friend, Peter Creadle, on Sky News. Um, it brought a tear to my eye that these issues are close to me. I myself was going to take my own life in 2006 and I'm so glad that I didn't. And I've had a very keen interest, lost a few relatives and friends to the dreaded, um, uh, black dog, but.

Let's get into your story because you have a purpose for telling this story publicly, Ange. Tell us a little bit about Louis and the issues leading up to his, his departure. So we lost Louis on the 26th of April 2020 and that was in the first Victorian lockdown. We had returned home from our family overseas trip.

We were skiing in Japan. We got notification that, uh, Scott Morrison was closing the borders, or Prime Minister Morrison, I should say, and we took the last flight out of Japan and came home. We went, I need to tell this story so you understand the ludicrous state or inconsistency, which is my, my beef across this, this whole scenario.

And, um, I believe the biggest cause of, of our tragedy. And, um, And others, we landed Sydney thinking, okay, COVID is announced that day we literally landed the day the airline shut down. We made our way from the international terminal to the domestic terminal on a bus with all other passengers who came in from anywhere and everywhere.

No social distancing, no anything at that stage thinking you'd be, um, I guess, observed, tested, spoken to by customs, nothing into the domestic terminal to catch a flight, uh, home to Melbourne. I was on that flight with operating pilots who had flown in from Hong Kong, operating pilots who had flown in from Singapore.

We were going home to go into two weeks of home quarantine. They were going home to return to work within 24 hours to fly back out of the country. So we were all at that stage. It literally had just occurred in that. Australia was closed. There was obviously going to be, um, parameters put on the airline, who could travel, and people were working things out, and I understand that.

We came home to home quarantine. We went straight from home quarantine into lockdown with ridiculous parameters about going for your two hour walk with two people. You must be 1.25 metres apart. We live. In the Geelong region, uh, and on the beach, it's business as usual. If you were surfing, how are you going to keep two meters apart from people surfing?

So whilst we surf, our kids, my son, he was in a band. His band room is in our house. There's three people in the band. We couldn't have three people over. Um, everybody was staying away from each other. And the point he being. Kids and youth should have been at school, children and youth, if they caught COVID, weren't dying.

Uh, the, the ad hoc reaction from the Andrews government at the time, I believe, was, when in fear, lock everybody down, the Wuhan lockdown, rather than manage the situation, apply, uh, as much consciousness to physical health. and mental health, uh, they, they should be treated, it should be treated the same. I'll never understand that.

I know they had a committee meeting about domestic violence and lockdowns and how that would affect people. I have friends in my other job, the police force, it was talked about how is this going to affect them. So why, why not have the same conversation about youth and children, especially when there was a, um, a Royal Commission in Victoria previous to that.

I think it was 2019, the results came out from that around youth mental health. You're a government, you're going to have results in front of you. Would you not make these, would you not consider all of the parameters? But, but we know from the Code Inquiry that that didn't happen. And we'll never get to talk about it in a Royal Commission, because.

Uh, the current government won't let the parameters or set the terms of reference to include state governments. And I don't understand that because we know that talking to people like me and the other seven, uh, Mothers and families in my community around that time in COVID who lost their boys of the same age, lived experiences extremely powerful and if you're not going to set the terms of reference to include those kinds of things, it's like trying to run a PhD or or grab a data set when you don't have a proper baseline.

That's just my lay opinion. Well, it's a common sense opinion. It's hard to argue with it but carry on. So, Louis. I know if he wasn't locked down and could get to his friends, he was grieving the loss of a friend to suicide. And the statistics and the empirical evidence say that when you lose someone to suicide, 135 people around you directly connected to you, be that your community, your family, your school group, uh, affected for a period of five years.

So we thought, uh, by going away, As a family overseas and spending time together that we could, could manage the grief. Um, I know there are many push factors and many risk factors in youth suicide. But when you pivot and you have something as extreme as a lockdown where you cut the connection for those teenagers, they don't, those push factors and those risk factors increase exponentially.

Thank you. And I know that happened because the statistics are in now and I said it a year after Louis passed away when I spoke to Peter and, and now the evidence is in. I might have been the grieving mother then who perhaps had an insular perspective of what was going on. But I know that it was happening because the kids were talking to me.

Parents were talking to me, friends that were coming into state, uh, for Louis delayed funeral because we had to wait. Or we chose to wait as a family for Daniel Andrews to make an announcement to have 30 people at a funeral as opposed to 10. That was another whole harrowing experience. Um, because we wanted the friendship group to be there because they're the most vulnerable.

And in my group of friends who are all interstate, um, coming from all different areas, there were people in their lives. In that year, children, second year medical students, 14 year old kids, 18 year old kids, 19 year old kids, these are people I know, not people I was reading about in the newspaper who were strangers to me who had taken their lives.

And I, I tried to be measured about my responses and, um, put myself in the shoes of a political leader. And you and I both know you doing human factors and, uh, in, in my training as a cabin manager, dealing with crisis, uh, as a police officer, you make assessments, but I think the best leaders and the best assessments are made when you consider all of the information.

And I will never not believe that the push factor for my son was that he couldn't connect. With his friends and youth and teenagers, then your pathways are developing. They don't have the emotional capacity that we do. They don't have the resilience that we do. They have big emotions. They're very reactive.

And, uh, I think as a parent, you, you question every single thing that you did when you lose a child to suicide. Did I say the wrong thing when he was three? Did I? chastise him the wrong way when he was in sixth grade? Did I punish him too harshly if he did the wrong thing? Did I explain that? Like you, you, you constantly have conversations about the way you build moral fortitude and self esteem and self love in your child.

And you question that. And I did a lot of therapy to cope with this existential grief. And each time I would go down that rabbit hole and blame myself entirely. The psychologist would say to me, Ansh, the reason that the statistic is for youth suicide is the highest in boys between the age of 15 and 24 is because their frontal cortex lobes are not developed.

They're, they engage in high risk behaviors, they make impulsive decisions, but they don't understand the consequences of those actions. And that can be. Not just for suicide, that can be for self harm, that can be for a decision to jump in a car with people you wouldn't ordinarily get in the car with. And these are all the, the nightmares that, that you, you think of every, every day when you're a parent.

You just want to keep your kids safe. And for me, I think innately, that's the careers I've have chosen and I try to give back to my community. You know. I've had it, um, I'm sure John could speak to this too, as an, as a paramedic, there have been times when I've had people in my custody or my care who I, I know I've saved from suicide.

But then this whole lockdown thing happened, this, this massive big change that you're trying, everyone was grappling with and everybody grappled with it in different ways and then I couldn't save my son.

So I struggle with that.

And then, I question, I question the choices. especially of the government in the state that I live under. I, I, um, I think it was reactive and not thoughtful. It was inconsistencies in the exemptions. Those four police officers passed away on the freeway four days before my son passed away and I felt for them having intended police funerals.

I can't believe they couldn't. Couldn't have funerals, couldn't have exemptions. The beautiful little boy in Warrnambool who drowned on the school camp. They're a small, they're a small town, you know. There's kids at that school at the age of eight who needed to grieve the loss of that darling little boy.

And you could only have 10 people. And I know when we had our funeral of 30.

Our street was lined with a thousand people, the school teachers, the kids, the town, nobody got COVID. And if they did get COVID, they, the young kids, like nobody got COVID. Everyone, it was at a time when,

I think, I think the information that they were basing their decisions on wasn't purely health information. I think they made their decisions based on politics and fear. And you've, you've questioned it, that the new, the vaccine information that, that has come out, the decisions around the illegality, all of that collateral damage is, is all, all part of this.

And I, it leaves a real bitter bitterness in, in my mouth. And, and now they'll never be accountable because Anastasia Palaszczuk, Queensland is for Queenslanders, as you know, you live in Queensland. And Daniel Anderson no longer the premier, so they'll, they'll never be accountable. I find it interesting when you spoke to Tony Abbott, that he said that we had approached the Wu, we had approached the pandemic with the Wuhan, um, philosophy of lockdowns as opposed to the, the English and Swedish model of, um, pandemic management.

And it's, it's quite interesting that. The now ex premier's off working for China, isn't it? Maybe that's just the way he communicates. Maybe that's his style of leadership, but, but, you know, as captain of an aircraft, what can happen with bad styles of leadership. That's just a shame someone didn't tell him he had Tony Abbott, um, Tony Abbott described the government responses grotesquely and overreaction.

Um, and, uh, you can't deny that, Johnny, we, we've had so many times that the, oh, the good news on suicide statistics in the last four years is they've actually gone down. Um, yet we hear so many stories, John, we hear all these stories and, um, my wife, Michelle and I, she's a psychologist. We've been working in welfare and.

And assisting people through 12 step recovery programs and I've been working with suicidal men for 18 years now and, and we can tell you that, um, the primary cause of that kind of, uh, depression is a lack of connection, a feeling of not being loved, a feeling of a loss of destiny and all those things were profoundly Bye.

Pushed alongside a mainstream media that was hell bent on fear porn. Um, I mean, kids can't look at this stuff all the time and they can't avoid it either because the parents want to know what's going on, but they're going to the wrong sources. John, how many times have we seen this? Well, all too many, Woody.

Uh, even pre COVID, um, it was still going on. Uh, unfortunately. This set of circumstances was the perfect storm. It just exacerbated, uh, the, the mental health, um, vulnerability of so many, uh, so many people and so many young people. And it's been so difficult. And, and these organizations. Uh, that, that, uh, that are meant to protect, uh, these, these young kids, where were they?

Where was Headspace and all these other organizations that government funds, people fund, I mean, I'm sorry. The majority of these people, they might have, you know, lovely people working for them that are well intentioned, but where were they for the Louis of the world? Where were they standing up saying, no, this isn't, this isn't how we, uh, have to treat this.

I mean, it was all about a risk assessment hoodie, wasn't it? I mean, that's what it goes back to. And they got the risk assessment. The input was was grotesque. There is no doubt about it. And we had this situation where premiers were having 11 o'clock press conferences saying that people were going to die if they spoke to their neighbor.

It was all BS. I think it's, I think it's worthy of noting too that at that time, people working for Lifeline and Headspace and that they weren't allowed to go to work. They weren't allowed to counsel. You know that I've spoken to quite a number of people in that, in that workforce who were frustrated because they felt now's the time we need to be at the front line, but we're prevented from doing so.

People weren't even allowed to work from home unless they were vaccinated. I mean, it was just bizarre. And Ange, you, you, you now, you're now living in a community of people who've suffered like you have, and I'm sure the big message to all of them and they're giving it to you is it's not your fault.

These things, these things happen. I, I understand that, but it's, I guess it's an innate response as a, as a parent, you, you, you think that, but on the back of what John was saying, I, I do have to give credit to, um, those organizations, um, whilst we weren't,

Louie's suicide blindsided us. Um, we weren't in a, um, we weren't saying a doctor or mental health professional. Had no clue he was feeling or thinking this, or was he really like that, that, that, that, that's all arguable. Uh, Christine Morgan, who published the, um, report about, um,

about, um,

suicide prevention had come to Geelong, spoken to us at Headspace with the CEO of Headspace because they wanted to know lived experience. They wanted to hear from, uh, anyone who had obviously been through this, because that was, that was their greatest resource. And she had visited 57 communities in the country prior to coming to us in Geelong and had noted that there was, um, massive issues with the COVID lockdown.

And her, her statistics and report were published, uh, 2023, I think, and. They do say that the statistics of youth suicide went up. The people at, uh, Origin, spelled O R Y G N, Patrick McGorry, Professor Joe Robinson, their statistics, they've drawn on from 2020 to 2021, suggest or state that the youth suicide statistics have gone up.

Professor Robinson is a board member of the International Association for Suicide Prevention. And when you talk globally, They acknowledge the statistics in the Western world in youth suicide, uh, have gone up since COVID. Now, maybe that's because the lockdowns in our Western culture presented the biggest, uh, pivot.

or push factor because the statistics coming out of Belgium and places like, for example, Slovenia, they can't collect the statistics at the moment for that period of time. So watch this space. Those stats will come out and they will show that COVID, uh, lockdowns are a, um, a big push factor, especially in youth suicide.

And we know the way the youth brain works is different. To that of us as adults, I remember too well, uh, some of the things I used to think and do back in those days when I'm back in them now and you wonder how you survived, um, you're doing, you're obviously in, you're very active in this space at the moment, you're looking at a whole bunch of research and you're looking to achieve certain things.

Can you tell us what you're working on? Where your research is taking you and, and what are the things that you are primarily focused on at the moment, especially in the community that you find yourself in there? Um, I think for me, my, my mantra, I said it at Louie's funeral, I wrote, I wrote forward for a, um, a leadership group in Geelong who did a specific workshop with Lifeline on the youth suicide cluster over that time for the boys.

Um, and I truly believe vulnerability is power that there whilst I personally haven't suffered a stigma around suicide, our community on every level, my conscious family, my police family, my direct community, and all the, all the people around me have been incredibly supportive. We are very lucky to have.

a wonderful support group of family and friends. I know I've done some therapy zoom calls with people who do not have what we have. So I think, um, there are organizations to support you in grief after suicide because the grief is personal. It's a personal journey. There's no getting over it. You build a life around it, but if you don't have structures in place to assist families, then you, you're going to have People who can't function.

You're going to have no productivity. You're going to have families falling apart. The grief is excess. It's an existential shattering. So my biggest, my biggest goal is to not have any more, more seats at my grief table. Of mothers. We had six. We now have eight. We nearly about to have nine and I don't want any more.

So if by you, you, you have to approach suicide and especially youth suicide from so many different angles. Some kids will talk to trusted adults. Some kids will talk to their friends. So my goals would be teach children how to triage each other. You can triage a broken arm. If you're at school, your friend breaks their arm, you know, you got to get the teacher or, you know, you got to call an ambulance.

If you're at school and your friend says, I'm having a bad day. You don't know that that could mean. And when I go home tonight, I'm not coming back tomorrow. So we need to teach the friendship group who are the most important people in these kids lives, how to triage each other and how they can reach out without feel like feeling like they're violating trust, because The biggest thing is to take care of each other.

I think that's lacking. We, you know, it's back to physical and mental health, isn't it? We had a, an exemption for Louie's funeral to take care of the kid's mental health by the chief health officer for the funeral to have little pods of 10 supervised social distance right from the top. And then Lisa Neville squashed that and said, no, no exemptions, but we could have an AFL hub.

With family and friends. So the inconsistencies I'd like to address making sure we don't lose any more kids that they can triage between each other and communicate with the professional people who can help them that the fun funding isn't everything, but, but the funding gets to the right places. So that like with domestic violence, when somebody reaches out for help, the resources are there.

Because if you don't. Have the resources set up when someone reaches out. That's when they fall through the cracks and falling through the cracks is permanent. Losing, losing your life is permanent and

parents shouldn't lose their children.

Sorry. So I think by, by talking honestly, by sharing, by being vulnerable, by identifying the pain points and holding space and listening. We can make a difference.

Oh, I think you raise a really good point there about the funding getting to the right areas, uh, because it's, it's certainly like, I, I, I know with Headspace, for instance, uh, there's obviously, uh, a lot of these organizations. They, they don't end up putting a lot of, uh, the funds that are raised back into the coalface.

There seems to be a hell of a lot of administration with these organizations. Um, and you know, it, it worries me that, uh, that, that, that that's happening. And I, and I know for instance, uh, when an adolescent gets booked in to go and see one of these organizations, quite often they can't get in for months.

And when they do, those organizations send the letters back to the adolescent, not to the parent. I mean, you don't even know that if you weren't checking the mailbox, you wouldn't even know that the correspondence had come. Um, so there's, there's certainly a lot of, uh, flaws with, with the system. Um, uh, you know, we look at that event, a tragic event that occurred in Bondi.

Now you have to ask yourself this, this guy was troubled. Uh, he, he, he, he fell through the cracks, he, he, you know, and then we've got another half a dozen lives more that, that have been absolutely destroyed because of the actions of a very sick person. Uh, it's, it's, it's, it's a dreadful, dreadful scenario that, that we're in.

And I, I, I just wonder, do you think And did they do enough in regards to the, uh, was there a coronial inquest? Did they actually, was it thorough? Like, did it have recommendations? Uh, we, we did have a coronial inquest. It was a coronial inquest, uh, for six of the boys and Labeled as such because of age proximity, um,

except one COVID related, uh, but yeah, it's called a cluster for clinical reasons, more than really the real reasons. And, um, I, I do have permission to say this from the grief club. Um, the, I would suggest us as mothers, as much as you. give information to a coronial inquiry. Um, I think we all, every, every case is individual, of course, but I think we might know more than perhaps the clinical response that we got in saying that the coroner was exceptional and very empathetic and incredible, uh, in some respects.

And the process left me, um, wanting, you may say. And, um, you can, you can probably understand the Coroner's Court's got as much of a backlog as the County Court and the Supreme Court. It's, um, all of these things. But yes, there was a coronial inquiry. It didn't tell me anything I didn't know. Uh, I think we all, between us, uh, know more.

I think, I think we'd, we'd all do very well to listen to coronial inquiries, having obviously had experience with them. As a police officer also, but also the, the experts and the lived experience together, because there's a lot of people who say, Oh yeah, the experts, this, that, and blah, blah, and they're all academic.

Well, the data doesn't lie. And, but then it's about who chooses to listen to what expert, isn't it? So the statistics will come and I guess. A person, the reality hits home when you hear an anecdote as opposed to a dark set, but you've got to put them both together. So we've got a lot of work to do. I know for kids origin have a, um, a trial at the moment with a great app called chat space, where kids have had agency and input into how they want to talk about and deal with suicide.

They don't want to be talked at, they want to be talked with. So they're developing that and it asks kids questions in real time about their feelings and they can see for themselves that in the morning they may have felt great by the time they get home. They've had a fight at school. They feel like really bad, but that doesn't have to mean that the world ends because kids don't take their lives because they want to die.

Kids take their lives because they're trying to remove a pain. Or they're feeling despair around a lack of connection. I truly believe that. It's a little bit nuanced from us as adults. The stresses are, the highs and lows are manic. And then in that moment in time, you ideation to You know, making a mistake, you could even call it.

Christine Morgan said when she spoke to us that they just can't work out how humans move from that. Everybody at some stage can have a suicidal thought, but how you can move from suicidal ideation to, to actually being involved in a suicide. So got to come at it from all angles. In the current school is one of them.

I think with, uh, with that age group, 16 to 24 year old, particularly male, very, very much so male. Um, and I do a lot of work with, uh, with men's issues and calling men out and trying to get fathers to stand in their rightful place back in the breach and all that sort of stuff, which is very hard given the current left leftist environment that we live in.

But. Uh, there comes a stage when as a young boy, you transition from boyhood psychology to manhood psychology, and that's where you need mentoring and initiation through that. And that gets talked about a lot, but there's like, you can have up to the age of 16, you can have all this love in your family and everything just seems right.

But then all of a sudden you get this feeling like you've got to transition to something else. And that's something else is normally a community or a brotherhood of men and boys who are going through the same thing and that's why gang mentality, uh, or gangs are so prevalent because boys actually feel like they're fitting into a community where they're hugged and they're loved and they're listened to and their emotional needs are being met and all that sort of stuff and I think it's really hard for parents to understand when that's happening and quite often that transition is so subtle you don't even notice it.

And, and at that time when, you know, I'm, I'm, I'm reasonably confident that Louie would have been at that stage where he'd be thinking, you know, it's my boys, it's my brothers, it's the band, it's the guys I surf with or whatever, and then to be transitioning at that, at that stage, like a tortoise without a shell, really vulnerable, and then to have that connection severed, I mean, that's catastrophic for young men, I remember what that was like for me, and I'm sure John would as well.

Absolutely. Do you think the, do you think the chief health officers, uh, in, in dealing with the, with the pandemic and the COVID situation, do you, do you think it's a case of once again, sidelining mental health as not a real issue, uh, you know, here they are concentrating on, you know, somebody going to catch a cold from somebody, uh, which has caused so much harm everywhere else?

I, I do. And I think it depends.

On the personality and the, the way the chief health officer processes information. I had someone say to me that lockdown suited their kid and they might, they might have suited their kid. Cause their kid was the kid who was in their bedroom, locked up all the time, playing Fortnite. That, you know, I mean, there wasn't any difference for that, for that child, but for other children.

You know, that they were missing out on their formals. They were missing out on their first dates. They were, um, you know, unable to participate in their most important. Connection at that age with their teenage friends, because more than as, as you just said, Graham, more humans, more than even love want connection.

And it might just be, I had to sit next to their friend or go to school and have routine, consistency, routine, and connections. And when you took them out of school and you lock them up and, you know, My goodness me. We were locked up in a loving house. Imagine being locked up in a house that you were glad you went to school every day to get away from.

And then suddenly you had to spend every minute of your life in the horror house. Like I, there are, there are, there must be that many anecdotes out there. So, yes, I think, I think they made physical decisions, physical health decisions without considering the ramifications of the mental health decisions.

But when I read the Human Rights Act. It doesn't differentiate between physical and human rights. So why does a elected person, perhaps with not a level of expertise in that area, get to make that policy decision? That's right. And you put that with a sociopathic, uh, politician like Daniel Andrews, somebody who has no empathy whatsoever, um, who's getting off on the power of being able to control millions of people like he was.

Um, it's a, it's a nightmare scenario. But, you know, back, back when, when, uh, this tragedy happened for you and the family and Louis, um, that was sort of like the tail end of my career with Qantas. It was all coming unraveled for me about then as well. And I was involved a lot in welfare issues, you know, base managers and various managers in different parts of the company would contact me if they're worried about somebody.

Can you take them under your wing? And I did that a lot for many years. And, uh, and I was really grateful to do that. It was a wonderful thing. I actually applied to see if they'd employ me as a chaplain at one stage, and they weren't keen on that idea. But anyhow, the Qantas I used to work for Ange had a really good heart for people in situations like that.

I saw it demonstrated. I was asked to do things by management people on the quiet because they didn't want it known. And I was the go between between several management people and some Pilots who may have been through family circumstances in a very depressed way. They were great, and, and I was always proud of them, mostly.

But then afterwards, it seemed from the horror stories I was hearing from the way HR were treating people around mandates, that they had lost their way as well. What was your experience, what was the Qantas experience like for you when, when Louis passed away? I knew you were going to ask me this, and it's not, I'm not avoiding it at all.

I wasn't. At the time for other reasons, not at work and for that two, two year period, I guess, because the first year was a haze to me, um, I wasn't at work when everyone was reemployed in hotel quarantine and other jobs or left the company or, or was removed from the company because of mandates. Uh, my, my personal experience of our Qantas family was, in respect of losing our son was amazing.

Um, I know Louie's funeral was streamed, uh, so even though we had 30, 30 people at the actual funeral and about 50 hiding in the bushes around, uh, I know we had about two and a half, 2, 800 people on that funeral and my house was full of flowers and the Qantas family still are very incredible in relation to that.

I've always said That from the staff perspective, you couldn't remunerate the talent or the care or the, that, that they bring to the table if you really had to put it into it in a numerical value. And I know that that sits separately to your experience and everyone who has lost their job because of a mandate that we are now finding out.

is illegal and vaccines are dangerous. So that juxtaposition for me, especially My sense of justice, um, it doesn't wash with me in any of the departments in the, in the police force, the ambulance, the airlines, nurses, like you, I have friends all around me who are suffering the consequences of that. And I think, I think my body, my choice should be exactly that.

Yeah, we, we don't disagree there for sure. And, and, um, and I honor your choice to make whatever medical decisions you may have made, Ange, but. What I wanted to allude to, I guess I was hanging on to that notion of the spirit of Australia that we all loved and wearing the Qantas uniform, and I know a lot of the people who practice that heart for serving of others and looking after others is still there, and I want to hear that That it's getting better.

I want to hear that that spirit hasn't died off completely, Angela. Um, I, I agree for that family. I, I agree, you know, I've lost so much in making the decision I made and you know, I lost a lot of respect from some people and a lot of people turned away from me and won't, won't answer my messages or calls and that's fine.

But, um, I still believe in the spirit of Australia in our nation and also in the airline that used to carry that label and I pray that one day that will come back and that, and that Qantas will be the brand and the spirit and the people that it once was where, um, where the human heart was more important than profit.

And, um, so we're glad to hear that. Yeah. And I, I, um, I see that every day in my. My beautiful cabin crew and, uh, our pilots. I love going to work. Uh, every day is different and I've always said, depending on how you're feeling or what's going on in your life, you always fly on a day with who you're supposed to fly with.

You have a conversation with someone and you say, I was meant to fly with you today. And I think, um, That's still there, but that's still there. And there are a good bunch of people and, and you know, that camaraderie and I know you miss it and I wish you were back too. Yeah. I mean, it was just for me every day out was a good day at work.

It was just. It was great. You know, you, you look at people and they're all, we're always glad to see each other. You know, there are some people in, in the management roles as pilots, uh, uh, I mean, on board like captains and some, uh, on board managers who sort of rule with an iron fist, but mostly everybody just got on with it.

They left their egos behind and they just. Looked after each other and their, uh, their passengers and yep, I long for it. And, uh, I know Johnny's hanging to get back into an ambulance and do what he's meant to do. You know, it's like, Johnny, you shouldn't get me. Well, go Angie. No, you go. It's, it's, yeah, it's, it's criminal what they're doing.

There's, there's no doubt about it, but, um, uh, you know, the ambulance was a big family too. And. You know, they've just gone completely woke, you know, you can't even go down to the pub for a beer now, you know, that's all frowned upon, uh, you know, the whole, the whole thing's just gone completely nuts. Uh, it's unfortunate, but that's, that's where it's gone.

We need to take it back, um, You know, in a new direction at some point, and that's why I think we're doing what we're doing, uh, uh, unfortunate as it is, that's why we're, we're, we're trying to, uh, to alert people to what's,

what's, what's going on so that we can, we can take a new direction, uh, start a new community, uh, because the old one has been, uh, Completely corrupted by, uh, by grubs.

Um, well, as Winston Churchill said, you got enemies, good. You stood up for something. That's so true. That is exactly right. And is there anything you would like to, sorry, John, you got it. Oh, well, I was just going to ask Angela. I mean, and you sort of, you've sort of alluded to, um, the fact that the vaccines were, were, were now problematic.

Uh, contrary to advice that was given to us by these chief health officers. I mean, it may have been the case, but I don't recall it. I, I, I, I, I see a gradual increase over my career in, in, in suicides. Uh, I, I, I see a gradual increase in, in a whole heap of other things that weren't known to me. Uh, earlier on in my career, these ADHDs and, you know, all, all these issues, uh, I'm not suggesting they are vaccine related, uh, but I think they need to be examined.

We had a situation in New South Wales, I'm sure the same in Victoria where Gladys Berejiklian was lining up students so that they could get their HSC, uh, and they were forcing them to have, uh, these mRNA injections. It was completely bonkers. Now, I don't know whether it, whether they're linked, but do you, do you think that these, these drugs, these vaccines, uh, are having some sort of effect on, on people's minds?

Uh, do you think that they may be causing psychosis, mood swings that, that are contributing to these suicides? I can't comment on that in relation to Louis because we were at the very, very beginning of the pandemic and we, he hadn't had a vaccine. Personally, for Louie, uh, I, I'm, I couldn't comment. I, I think if you, if you look at it, like if you look at MRNA, and I'm not an expert, God, um, and you look to the literature that they talk about, then you, you've got to try, I suppose, to see if there is a correlation.

It's like when, when someone takes antidepressants, if you don't come off it gradually, you can have psychosis. Yep. Uh, Um, we know that. So I wouldn't like to comment on that, John, only because I have a degree, but it's not a medical degree. And I don't, I, and I, I, um, Louis didn't have vaccines. I couldn't say, I suppose I would like to, I'd like to go down the rabbit hole and find out.

Yeah. That's what I'm asking you. Do you, do you think it's worthy of looking at, um, you know, of course. Yeah. I mean, the vaccine network, haven't we, Woody? Um, I mean that poor, poor organization and, and Meryl Dorey and, and, uh, all those guys up there that have been, you know, singing about these issues for 30 years, uh, have been really ostracized and, uh, made to, to look like they're absolute fools.

But at the end of the day, uh, yeah, I think, I think what they're saying is worthy of investigation. Hmm. I, I can, Give just a really quick anecdote. Uh, when I was a police officer, had a phone call in the watch house in the night. I'm going to kill myself. I'm going to kill myself. I'm going to kill myself. I kept my, kept on the phone with him for about four hours.

He lived close to the station. I said, come down and speak to me. Come see me in the station. He arrived. He was red, flushed, like rosacea, freaking out, scratching, itching. It was not good. Anyway, we got through the night. We had some food. I had a drink, a cup of tea, biscuit, orange juice, whatever, settled right down, went home.

I got, about a month later, flowers and a bottle of champagne to the station. Thank you, you saved my life, la la la. Then I saw, Um, he. In a market. He ran up to me. He looked like a completely different human. We talked about it. He had been suffering that night. He'd been to the doctor the next morning from a massive hyperglycemic attack, massive hyperglycemic attack, where he thought he was his body was being eaten from the inside out and he didn't want to live any.

He didn't want to live anymore. And he ran up to me, gave me a Cuddle and said, Oh my God, you talked to me. We had a cup of tea and I'm alive. And so I think you have to look at that. Every angle with everything. You can't just put something into someone's body or you're the, you're the paramedic, you can't give a, an injection to someone and then have.

An allergic reaction and not think that that doesn't have an effect on someone's brain. So, I don't have a medical opinion, but I have a life experience opinion. So, I think what you say is feasible. Someone should go down the rabbit hole. Well, you know, John and I get messages through Club Grubbery and have done for years from people.

And we had a lady visiting here at our place just the other day. Saying that, um, you guys are the only ones keeping us alive because you're giving us hope and you're telling us that you love us and all that sort of stuff and we feel that and we've had thousands and thousands of messages, people saying, you know, I was going to kill myself, but I heard you say the serenity prayer and that saved my life, you know, and every night we sign up by saying, you know, if you love somebody and you haven't told them, please call them and tell them you may just save their life.

It's that important. There are so many people who've been turned back from the cliff with a simple I love you from out of nowhere and what does it cost us, you know? There's no price for compassion, humanity. So, um, and is there anything else you'd like to say before we bring this one to a close with a prayer?

Um, no, just keep plugging away. Thank you very much for having me. Um, you're two very smart and intelligent gentlemen, and you've had some amazing guests on your program. There's been so much spoken about on your program that resonates with me. Thank you for affording me the opportunity to share.

Hopefully the little ways we chip away, we can make a difference. save people's lives and they can go on and have joyful futures. Absolutely. And when you sign on at five o'clock in the morning to go to Sydney, uh, with your eyes propped open with matchsticks, I remember that well, if there's anyone there that I know, will you tell them I care about them?

And I said, good day. I certainly will. Well, let's bring this one to a close with a prayer and, uh, and a final quick comment and we'll tag it from me. Dear Lord, Father in Heaven, please grant us the serenity to accept the things that we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference, living one precious day at a time, enjoying one beautiful moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, and taking as Jesus did this sinful, wretched world as it is, and not as we would have it, And trust that you will make all things right if we just surrender to your will so that we may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next is our prayer in Jesus name.

Amen. Amen. God bless you. And you're a remarkable woman. And, uh, I wish we'd flown together more than twice. It would have been, would have been great. Um, we would have sure would have had some great conversations. Um, and, uh, Johnny, you've often been had to say. You just couldn't make this stuff up. And, uh, as, as you know, Angie would've gone, uh, I'm sure to numerous suicides as a police officer.

And, uh, everyone I think, uh, has been hit by suicide, uh, whether it be a family member, whether it be a friend, whether it be, uh, attending as a, as a frontline, uh, emergency service worker, or whether it just be counseling someone or talking to someone. It's, uh, it's, it's tragic and let's hope that, uh, we can do something to, uh, to really put some effort into, into reducing.

Suicide in Australia. And the other thing worthy of saying to all of you who are watching, we know that you feel anxious and depressed. Sometimes we understand that we sometimes wonder whether we're making any headway, but people like John and I, and Michael, Greg Griffith and others, we do this because we love our country.

Not because it's got a big red rock in the middle of it. That's got nothing to do with it. It's the people. It's you, whether you like us or hate us, we're doing this because we love you because we're all one and we're all standing together. And. We've got to bring compassion and love back into this real quick because we're sick of telling these stories.

So God bless you all, everybody. Stay out of the trees. We normally do a news, uh, thingo, a news update at the beginning of these programs, but in, um, in reverence for Louie and in remembrance of Louie and honoring his mum, Ange, who had the courage to be on tonight, John and I will be back to do that news update at the end.

So, um, we'd like to say, Ange, thank you so much for your courage, your strength, And, um, give them heaps at every opportunity you get, whenever you get a seat at the table, we know you will. We're with you a hundred percent. And if you want to come on and talk about anything else that you've learned, we're more than happy to have you come on.

So we thank you for joining us. Thank you for having me. Thank you, Ange. And John and I'll be back right after the break. Bye. Well, G'day Johnny. That was, uh, that was some interview, wasn't it? Yeah, very raw, Hoody. It, uh, you know, it's very difficult, especially, uh, you know, the circumstances. Horrific, uh, dreadful what these people have done.

No empathy at all, and that's a sociopath, and no one goes down in Australian history as a big sociopath than Daniel Andrews. Shame on you, Andrews. Um, yes, you can run, but you can't hide, my friend. One day, you will be held to account. If not in this life, well then, definitely straight after. But, Johnny, we've been off the air for a little while, as we've said.

We've, uh, I've had the lurgy, and it's been hard to do interviews, because it's been hard to speak. And you've had a lot of issues going on too, mate, because the New South Wales health mandate has officially been dropped, although you wouldn't think so, Johnny. No, well, there was nothing in the media, was there Woody, uh, other than the, the letter that, uh, uh, they sent to Tony Mikulik that we released, uh, that they probably weren't too happy about.

But no, we're not going back to work. Uh, as it stands, the, uh, health department has told, uh, John Ruddock's office that we won't be. Reemployed that we'll have to reapply for jobs if they're available and uh, it'll be a merit based system Well, we know how that worked in queensland, don't we? We do. And, uh, you know, you've still got idiots like the health minister up in Queensland who's prattling.

We need you. We need you. We need you. And then not doing anything to get them back. I mean, uh, we spoke to a nurse at the ABN, uh, Johnny, uh, up in the Gold Coast, the ABN 30th anniversary celebration a couple of weeks ago, um, a couple of weekends ago. And, um, she's the same ready to go back to work. 17 years.

You know, working frontline in the hospitals, ready to go back? No, you're just idiots. You're just grubs. You're just pathetic. Absolutely pathetic. You bureaucrats and the politicians who are your, uh, your puppets. You are absolutely pathetic. You don't have a moral fiber that you could, you could make anything with at all.

And, uh, but you've got to live with yourself, haven't you? Well, what was the point? I mean, really and truly, what is the point of even dropping the medal? Unless you're going to re engage people, what purpose does it serve? None. Yeah. It's just, look, it's a box ticking exercise, John. Well, they're just trying to, uh, avoid lawsuits.

That's a, they're, they're, they're just worried about compensation. They're just worried about having to, uh, put their hand in their pocket. Uh, well, you, you, you'll be doing more than putting your hand in your pocket, I can tell you, because, uh, you better be worried. Yeah. You, somebody you'll have to bring you a file and a cake.

That's right. And I can't imagine anyone wanting to when all this really comes out at the end of the day. Johnny, we've been saying it for 18 months at least, the next pandemic will be avian bird flu. And lo and behold, we had the, I think the governor of Wisconsin, who is a, an absolute radical mandator, um, That female, uh, governor they have over there.

I forget her name now. She sort of parades around with a mask on all over the place. Now pushing for mask mandates to come back because of avian bird flu. The ABC, John, last week, or in the last couple of days, did a

story from Antarctica on avian bird flu killing populations and penguins and seals. Then we have the CSIRO, um, I believe it was, who have an organization for disease preparedness.

Who have expressed concerns that this might impact on Australia and lo and behold within days of the ABC story about Antarctica We have our first case in a young girl in Victoria with avian bird flu. Johnny, what have you got to say? Well, what can you say, Hoody? I mean, you could have envisaged this. You didn't need to, uh, you didn't need to, uh, pluck this one out of, out of thin air.

It was always coming. And, uh, I suppose the ABC, I didn't watch it, Hoody, but was, was Swanee on location down there, or? I didn't watch it, John. I mean, uh, probably. If he is, I hope he stays down there. Good place for Swanee is in the freezer, but I mean, really, now you can see what's going to happen, John.

Large egg producers in America are being wiped out by the hundreds. Uh, not from bird flu, there've been fires and there seems to be this drive to destroy the potential to grow food because they want everybody to be hungry because that's how you control people. You know, everybody's been saying that for a long time and I used to think, no, they wouldn't do that, but they are, it's clear.

Now, you can see this coming a mile off, Johnny, when they, when the varroa mite apparently infected Um, bee hives in New South Wales, northern New South Wales out of Newcastle. The Department of Primary Industry decided to go and euthanize hundreds of thousands of hives. The beekeepers were saying, we've checked our hives, there's no burr I might know, we're going to put petrol in your hives anyway and kill your bees.

Hundreds of thousands of hives. Now there were video, there was video footage at the time, at the time, of apiarists, beekeepers crying because they love their bees. I've got bees. You, you can't, you can't work with them for a minute and not love them the way that, the way that they are, the way, the magical things that they do and what they produce.

They're an incredible living organism. And the DPI said, no, no, we're going to wipe all these hives out. And then when they realized that they couldn't control it anyway, they said, oh, we've changed our mind now. We're not going to wipe out anymore. Nevermind the hundreds of thousands of hives and billions of bees you destroyed.

And you can see it coming, Johnny. Mark my words. If you've got hens in your backyard, you won't have them for much longer because that's what they're going to do. You know, we've got people in Australia, John, who are screaming and yelling about a magpie that was whisked away from a couple on the Gold Coast.

And I can understand why we talked about that. Now, what are they going to do when everybody's talking about, we've got to kill all the magpies and you've got to kill the chooks. And if you've got any budgies, I mean, it's just, look, if we fall for this, we don't deserve to breathe. I look to be honest with you.

Look, this is the boy that cried wolf over and over and over again, and the mainstream media are pushing this fear porn to enhance the control. You watch, it'll be 15 minute cities, we'll be eating crickets, central bank digital currency, everything that the so called tin foil hat wearers have been saying for years.

Conspiracy theories are turning into conspiracy fact every day, Johnny. You couldn't make this stuff up. Nah, you couldn't make it up, would he? And, uh, you know, here we have, you know, on a local front, we've got this moron prime minister, uh, now creating some, uh, um, multi million dollar ad campaign to sell his budget.

I mean, we've got people out there that can't even feed themselves. They're living, uh, under bridges. This idiot's now barking on some multimillion. I forget the figure, but it was horrendous. Uh, it was eye watering, uh, what it's costing, uh, to, to run this BS campaign about how, how good these, uh, tax benefits are and all this stuff.

I mean, these people are on another planet, hoodie. Well, Albo, you need to go and visit our mate Daniel Cinzio up in the Logan Shire in Brisbane where he's feeding the homeless and the people living in tents and in their cars under bridges being moved on by Logan Shire Council who are turning off their water and all that sort of rubbish.

I mean, who do these people think they are? The grub who runs the Logan City Council, their new Mayor, John, he is an absolute grub, this bloke. I've been having a good look at some of the stuff he's been saying. I've been hearing about his interaction with welfare people. He's upped himself, this bloke, and he needs to be pulled down a peg or two.

Um, you know, there could come a day Uh, your worship or your honor or whatever we're meant to call you where you're sleeping in your car all night and, uh, a bit of empathy wouldn't go astray. I mean, you're not talking about a Sydney Harbourside suburb. Logan is an area that encompasses a whole lot of different socio economic groups.

And there's a lot of people on welfare in that area and they need somebody who controls the shire, that's actually got a heart and can actually see what's going on around him instead of worrying about property values. You're a grub my friend. You're an absolute grub. And what about this other garbage hoodie?

I mean, you could comment on this. I was still flabbergasted. I mean, those, uh, Boeing business jets that the RAAF. Uh, owns that, that, uh, this, this Grub Albenizzi, uh, uses as a, uh, a private chauffeur service for himself. They're the 737 800, uh, so they're not an old aeroplane. They've been with the RAAF since new.

So, I mean, in terms of An aeroplane hoodie, uh, working, I mean, they're very low life, aren't they? You know, in terms of hours and in terms of how much they would have been used, I mean, they are very much at the beginning of their service life. Absolutely. Absolutely. You can't wear those things out when they're properly maintained, and the Air Force have been properly maintaining aeroplanes for a hundred years.

Yeah. And when you compare them to what Virgin and Qantas, uh, do with their airplanes on a daily basis, I mean, you know, these airplanes, uh, would be like, you know, a one owner, uh, one owner lady going to church on Sundays. Yep. Absolutely, Johnny. Absolutely. But I don't know. I don't know. Albo is taking delivery of two new jets.

Uh, two new, uh, 737, uh, Max jets, uh, Boeing business jets. They're going to be fitted out with all bedrooms and everything coming in. No doubt with red and green coloring inside for his favorite football team, the Ravidas. It's unbelievable, isn't it? Ah, it is unbelievable. Look, you know, and not only that, two and a half tonne of fuel an hour being burned, you know, by, by this bloke in Bowen who uses it a lot too apparently, they're flitting around all over the place talking about, you know, green energy.

Which leads me to tomorrow night's program, Johnny. We've got Jason Miles who's running again in the Queensland state election, joining us with a panel of people who are really concerned about renewable energy. We've had them on before and it's going to be a really great discussion tomorrow night.

Looking forward to that. Yeah, he's a great character, uh, Jason and, uh, and hopefully, uh, he can get elected, uh, to the Queensland parliament. He'd be a great servant of the, uh, the people of Queensland, no doubt. Well, he's up against a liberal candidate in that, in that, uh, area. I think it's Maranoa. No, not Maranoa.

That might be, I don't know. I'm not up to date. Deb Frecklington, who is an absolute. Waste of space, Deb Frecklington, you know, uh, just an absolute waste of space. Anyhow, um, you know, Jason's all about keeping him honest, whether he wins the election or not. He just wants to get out there and ask the questions.

He's going to ask a lot of, uh, straight up questions tomorrow night with our panel of experts and concerned Australian citizens. So that should be a really good one. Uh, we've, we're going to be interviewing some great people from the Australian vaccine network starting next week. Who else have we got coming on?

We're going to be talking to the ACA, the Aligned Council of Australia, once again, and they're lining up some people for us, including Ramesh and, um, and some others who are going to be talking about us. Dr. David Bell, I think. Dr. David Bell. Thank you, Johnny. We're lining that up at the moment. He's just flying back to Texas.

So once he gets over his jet lag, that'll be happening. Um, so many, uh, really good interviews lined up. We've got Philip Altman coming back on again. Um, who else have we got? Anyhow, there's 12 interviews lined up for us to try and record in the next five days. So, we're going to be busy little boys, Johnny.

Oh, good. Always good to catch up with Dr. Philip Altman. He's a, he's a fantastic guy and, uh, yeah, look forward to that one too. And Gary Christensen. Another good one. And George, sorry, George Christensen, I know a Gary Christian and we know George Christensen. I'll be approaching him to come on the program now.

He's, um, doing a lot of great work in local government in the Mackay Pioneer Rivershore, I think it is. Anyhow, Johnny, it's, um, we do apologize to everybody for our lack of appearance lately. We've been pretty sparse the last couple of weeks, but the Lurgi's getting better. There's a tickle. Excuse me, and that wasn't put on.

There is a tickle there, but we're getting over it. And, uh, Johnny, you, you had to go the other day, you were preoccupied because you had to go to the industrial relations commission following what happened with the health mandates in New South Wales. Yeah, that's, that's true, Woody. Uh, so Tony Nikolic and Steve Kelly, uh, were there, uh, representing me.

So, uh, it's still, it's still an ongoing, um, matter. So, uh, yeah, look, we're hopeful of a good outcome in, um, In that case, uh, the, the mandates obviously being dropped, which, which is very significant because the majority of their case was based on, uh, the fact that we were never going to be allowed to go back to work.

Uh, so, uh, that that's changed the, uh, dynamics, uh, significantly. So, uh, let's, let's just see, uh, uh, what happens with that. Uh, we know from a common sense point of view that. Um, it's madness. So let's just, uh, let's just hope and pray that, uh, the common sense, uh, prevails. Yeah, it's still live. So the, the commissioner wants to hear some more, um, um, summary of, uh, of, of, of evidence.

Uh, so they've given us seven days to put that there. And, uh, the other side will have another seven days to respond and then, uh, we'll, we'll see where we go, but hopefully, uh, you know, I'm hoping that we could have a, uh, a verdict on that within, uh, within the month, hopefully. Well, that'll be good news one way or the other at least.

And, uh, also we're going to be talking about, uh, to Kim Staten next week about the latest on Julian Assange, which is. That's been good news, hasn't it? That's been good news. So Kim's desperate to update us on that. He was on the today show. To Carl Stefano. Carl. Oh, . Come on, Carl. Um, and, uh, yeah, he's getting some good airtime on this.

So I think if I, when is Carl gonna come on? Well, come on Carl. Yeah, we'd like to. Yeah, Carl, he, he'd be a good interview actually. Yeah, it would be a good interview. Now he, um, of course he's supposedly a journalist, like a whole lot of these other talking heads on morning television and so on. Now. They should have a great deal of empathy for Julian Assange, who was doing his job as a journalist and, uh, excuse me, there it goes again, but you should be sticking up for him, Carl, and I'm glad to hear that you're at least asking the questions.

Anyhow, we've got to get going because this show is going to go over time. Thanks everyone for watching. Thanks for sticking by us. Oh, Johnny, I haven't told you, but we're going to be live with Cafe Lockdown on Sunday night. That's going to be a, we're announcing a big initiative with Michael Gray Griffith.

Um, and we were talking about it this afternoon. I'm sure he's spoken to you about it. And, um, we're looking forward to having a bit of fun with Michael and, and, uh, Paul Oosterhuis. And yeah, it's been a while since we've done that and, um, good things. That's always a lot. You never know where we'll end up with Michael.

No, you never know with Michael, but, uh, we keep a watchful eye on him and, um, we love him and, um, we're looking forward to doing a bit of work with him. So good night, everybody. Stay out of the trees and we'll talk to you next time on Club Grubbery. Tomorrow night, that'll be.

