Eerie 'forest of the fallen' exhibitions pop up in Australia

<u>news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/news-life/eerie-forest-of-the-fallen-exhibitions-pop-up-in-australia/news-story/e1b1cab729b2ccb01e497fc771884a94</u>

3 min read March 8, 2023 - 1:03PM

7 March 2023

It's an eerie sight that's popping up at various locations around Australia, stunning locals and even bringing some to tears.

The "forest of the fallen" is a display organised by an anti-vaxx group that wants to bring awareness to people who are said to have been killed or injured by Covid vaccines in Australia.

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To date, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) says it has identified 14 deaths linked to Covid vaccines in Australia from 973 reports received and reviewed -13 after AstraZeneca and one after Moderna.

According to the TGA's most recent safety update, there have been a total of 137,141 adverse event reports from nearly 64.4 million doses — a rate of 0.2 per cent.

The TGA says "vaccination against COVID-19 is the most effective way to reduce deaths and severe illness from infection. The protective benefits of vaccination far outweigh the potential risks."

But anti-vaccination group VaxXed Bus has decided to draw attention to the issue by erecting dozens of sticks displaying the photographs and stories of those who they claim were impacted by the vaccines.



It's a display that hopes to bring awareness to people who are said to have been killed or injured by Covid vaccines in Australia. Picture: Supplied VaxXed Bus said the sticks and images were initially lent to them by Polish group Solidarity while they were stopped in Victoria back in November, according to a report in reader-supported publication <u>Informed Choice</u>.

The group then decided to display them everywhere they went.

While in Tasmania, another group called Selkie, which had constructed a display of more than 500 of them to put on the lawn of Parliament House, donated over 50 extra sticks with photos to the anti-vaxxers.

The group has also displayed them in locations including St Helens and Richmond, Tasmania.



Posters are erected on sticks. Picture: Informed Choice "We're giving a voice to the silenced," a woman known only as Lorraine said.

"There's a lot of pain out there. These people are very grateful that we are now telling their story in a public way.

"We go to parks and erect these sticks which have stories with pictures on of each person's injuries. The ones at the front are deaths, and we put a flower on each of the deaths and we hold a minute's silence as a sign of respect in the morning after we've set up display.

"What we want is for people to have their curiosity ignited and to walk in and explore and read the stories at their own leisure.

"We get lots of different reactions, some of them are very emotional.

"We've had people come in here and cry, we've had people come in here and say thank you."



It stuns and saddens many. Picture: Informed Choice Others have also started making their own "forests for the fallen" by printing out their own posters and placing them on sticks.

Bairnsdale The Forest Of The Fallen pic.twitter.com/hJGvqfYRAE

- Cafe Locked Out (@cafelockedout) January 18, 2023

Forest of the fallen.

Coming again soon, my town.

We are bearing witness. pic.twitter.com/ltoSNzfj8t

— Abi Tiki (@abi_tiki) February 8, 2023



They each tell a story. Picture: Informed Choice

Earlier last year, Dr Rado Faletic — who previously spoke out about his battle with the TGA — launched Australian advocacy <u>group Coverse</u> to provide support and collect testimony from those suffering vaccine injuries.

The TGA said in a statement that people who submit adverse event reports "are not routinely given feedback about their adverse event report beyond the acknowledgement letter".

"However, in some cases reporters are contacted if further information is required to either complete or assess the adverse event report," a spokesman said.

"The TGA's function is to analyse adverse event report data to look for potential conditions or adverse effects which may be linked to vaccination. The Product Information (PI) documents for Covid-19 vaccines include information on adverse events including the expected frequency, when known. The PI documents are available on the TGA website. The TGA also publishes information about adverse events in the Covid-19 vaccine safety report."