



## All WHO members should support probe: Australia

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*All member nations of the World Health Organization should support a proposed independent review into the coronavirus pandemic, Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Thursday, further threatening strained ties with China.*

1. Australian leader Scott Morrison said on Thursday (23 April) that all member nations of the WHO should support an independent review into the coronavirus pandemic's origins and spread.

2. It's a move that could put further strain on ties with China:

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER SCOTT MORRISON, SAYING:

"We will need an independent inquiry, that looks at what has occurred here so we can learn the lessons. Now, there will be debates about the timing of that. We are in the middle of dealing with the pandemic right now and I understand some of the hesitations that have been expressed about the timing of that particular inquiry."

3. Australia has become one of Beijing's most forceful critics over the handling of the spread of the coronavirus.

4. Beijing has called these efforts U.S-led propaganda against China, but Morrison defended calls for the inquiry as earnest in nature:

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER SCOTT MORRISON, SAYING:

"Our purpose here is just pretty simple: We'd like the world to be safer when it comes to viruses. It seems like a pretty honest ambition that I'm sure most people in the world would agree with.

So it would be great if we could achieve that and that's the spirit in which we're pursuing this and I would certainly hope that any other nation, be it China or anyone else, would share that objective."

5. Australia's call for global action comes as it has seen success in slowing the coronavirus with around 6,600 cases of infection and less than 80 deaths.