How can a disease with 1% mortality shut down Australia?

There are two problems with this question.

1. It neglects the law of large numbers; and

2. It assumes that one of two things happen: you die, or you are 100% fine.

Australia has a population of 24,990,000. If one percent of the population dies, that is 249,000 people dead.

A quarter of a million people dead would monkey wrench the economy no matter what. That nearly doubles the number of annual deaths all at once.

The second bit is people keep talking about deaths. Deaths, deaths, deaths. Only one percent die! Just one percent! One is a small number! No big deal, right?

What about the people who survive?

For every person who dies:

* 19 more require hospitalisation.

* 18 of those will have permanent heart damage for the rest of their lives.

* 10 will have permanent lung damage.

* 3 will have strokes.

* 2 will have neurological damage that leads to chronic weakness and loss of coordination.

* 2 will have neurological damage that leads to loss of cognitive function.

So now suddenly, that "but it's only 1% fatal!" becomes:

* 249,000 people dead.

* 4,731,000 hospitalised.

* 262,833 people with permanent heart damage.

* 47,310 people with permanent lung damage.

* 1,477,000 people with strokes.

* 2,365,500 people with muscle weakness.

* 2,365,500 people with loss of cognitive function.

That is the thing that the folks who keep going on about "only 1% dead, what's the big deal?" don't get.

The choice is not "ruin the economy to save 1%." If we reopen the economy, it will be destroyed anyway. The AUS economy cannot survive everyone getting COVID-19.

Source: Franklin Veaux

https://www.boredpanda.com/1-percent-mortality-coronavirus-franklin-veaux/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic