



Integrative Wellbeing Solutions

1 March 2022

The Committee Secretary,
Community Support & Services Committee,
Parliament House,
George Street,
Brisbane...Qld...4000.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am lodging a submission to request rejection of the "Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022".

The State of Emergency should cease since reports from the Australian Government, various State Governments in Australia, and governments across the world are confirming that since the Omicron peak, the threat of serious illness and death have reduced significantly. Indeed, the governments of the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Tanzania, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic and Iceland have removed all internal COVID restrictions.

The Queensland CHO (Dr. John Gerard) has referred to the status of Omicron spread as an epidemic now on a number of occasions over the last weeks.

As of 24.02.2022 the Australian Government Department of Health has released figures which state that only 5.6% of the population remain unvaccinated against COVID.

Please allow Queensland residents to begin "living with COVID" without unnecessary restrictions to movement, lifestyle, and the ability to earn a living.

In 2020 and 2021, at the height of the pandemic, as an Allied Health Worker, and without any vaccination and none originally on the horizon, I was regarded as "essential". I continued to attend upon my office every day, seeing clients with serious mental health problems, face to face, maskless, whilst attending to safe working distances, safe hygiene etc. Then, on 17 December 2021, I had to cease work as I am one of the 5.6% of the population that is unvaccinated. Because of these Emergency Powers, I had to close a very successful psychology practice that was the only one in this area offering assessments for Autism Spectrum Disorder and providing EMDR for complex trauma clients, including being the only psychologist working under the National Redress Scheme for victims of Institutionalised Child Sexual Abuse.

In perusing the latest ABS data (2020) on Causes of Death in Australia, COVID-19 is recorded as being the 38th leading cause of death (898) whereas suicide is 15th with 3139 deaths. I suspect that when the 2021 figures are released deaths by suicide will have increased due to the exacerbation of mental health issues caused by the continued lack of freedom and inability to provide for oneself or one's family due to these wide reaching emergency powers and mandates.

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As the COVID-19 pandemic has now subsided to being endemic, I request that this Amendment not be allowed to pass in the Queensland Parliament and that the Queensland Government follows the lead of the governments previously mentioned and remove all internal COVID restrictions and allow the residents of Queensland to return to the freedoms they are guaranteed under the Australian Constitution.

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