

**Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate.**

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*My submission in response to:*

**Public Health and other Legislation (Extension of expiring provisions amendment bill 2022)**

We are 2 years into the coronavirus pandemic, and as the pandemic moves into the next stage of its' existence, Queensland society is learning to live with the threat of this virus. The management of this pandemic from the Palechek government has kept Queenslanders isolated from their loved one's interstate, forced the closure of small businesses, and decimated the tourism industry in Queensland. The vaccination mandates have forced even more public sector staff shortages within teaching, healthcare, aged and community services.

Every death is a tragedy. However, the recently released Australian Bureau of Statistics information gives some perspective to the Covid related deaths within Australia, revealing that COVID related deaths represent **fewer than one percent** of the total deaths in Australia over the past 22 months. Of those COVID related deaths, 92 percent of people who died with covid had at least three underlying health conditions. The median age of COVID related deaths was 81 years for men and 86 years for women, both being above the average national life span.

As the end date of the **Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency – COVID 19) Regulation (No.4) 2021** Bill fast approaches on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, Queenslanders have had enough of living with restrictions that are unnecessary. As time goes on and the pandemic moves into it's endemic stage, the relevent laws and restrictions need to be flexible and address public health in a way that is relevant to the **current** situation. It is clear from the statistics released by the ABS that the **current** situation in Queensland is not an emergency, and that 2 years into this pandemic, COVID poses less of a threat to the population of Australia than many other chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes, which have a much higher mortality rate. Queenslanders have lived with COVID for months now, and many realise that this pandemic has been highly exaggerated and addressed by the government in ways that are neither necessary nor in the best interests for the health of the entire population. Queenslanders are ready and willing to support the small businesses and tourism industry that have suffered immensely due to the vaccination restrictions and mandates. Queenslanders would like to go back to work. I propose the Queensland Palececk government leaves the state of emergency in the past where it belongs, and gets on with it.