

Dr Alexandra Bernhardt

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02/03/2022

Committee Secretary  
Community Support and Services Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

**Submission in regards to the Public Health and Other Legislation  
(Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022 (the Bill).**

Dear Committee Secretary,

I make this submission to **not** extend the temporary measures which are to be further extended through the above cited bill, including:

- amendments to the *Public Health Act 2005* to increase powers for emergency officers and the Chief Health Officer to limit, or respond to, the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland, support testing and quarantine requirements and authorise other public health measures;
- amendments to the *Corrective Services Act 2006*, *Disaster Management Act 2003* and *Mental Health Act 2016* to support the public health response;
- a head of power in the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020* to make regulations to facilitate transitional arrangements for the temporary framework.

I am a General Practitioner and have educated myself extensively on the topic of COVID19 ( including the virus itself, available vaccination incl their risks and effectiveness, preventative strategies both individually as well as on a public health level, different treatment modalities for various stages of COVID19, available scientific research and emerging data and other evidence).

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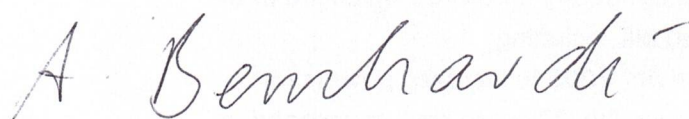
In accordance with international scientific opinion I do not see an ongoing emergency arising from COVID19 in Queensland and Australia at this stage.

I furthermore believe that the continuation of the perception of a COVID19 emergency will on balance cause more harm than good to the individual people, the public as well as the economy and the entire Australian country.

As a GP, I am already seeing increased numbers of fear driven neglected chronic health conditions, delayed cancer diagnosis, severe mental health problems and a public health system that is not working well at all, leading to an unacceptable further time delay of so called "elective surgery" and other "elective" services.

The harm done by further operating under an emergency banner is huge. Australian people - people in Queensland- need to find a way back to a normalisation of life. Any money that the state can spend should go into education and preventative lifestyle measures, trying to repair a broken system. Extending emergency powers will drive a deeper rift into its people's physical and mental wellbeing.

Sincerely,



**Dr Alexandra Bernhardt**