
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 3 March 2022 1:01 AM
To: Community Support and Services Committee
Subject: PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2022

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

I approach you today as a mother, a School Officer of over 21 years, a member of the Sunshine Coast community where I have been blessed to live all of my life, a 5th generation Aussie girl, a heart wounded woman, a human being. My sincere hope is that you will continue to read on and have the courtesy of hearing me out, just as I have had to do with our government day in and out for over 2 years now.

I am very concerned that a bill has been introduced to Parliament to try to extend the emergency powers once again. If this is passed, I fear that the government can then mandate again and again without any input from our MP's. I understand that there is a slight relaxation coming into effect in early March but with our high vaccination rates, naturally acquired immunity and each virus variant appearing to be milder e.g. Omicron, I cannot understand why mandates still need to be in place at all. Surely we are capable of finding alternate ways to lessen the impact on all of our lives, helping all residents to live with the virus instead of the government continually mandating restrictions that have at times done more harm than good to Queenslanders. The vaccine was promoted as a safeguard against the

Covid19 virus and would reduce the load on our hospital system but vaccinated and unvaccinated have both contracted the virus and in the vast majority of cases recovered without hospital treatment. My sincere hope is that the majority of our politicians listen to the voice of the people, the voters, and oppose extending the emergency powers again.

The harsh mandates have undoubtedly created challenging times for many of us. On a personal level I didn't feel the full effects of it until this year where due to my not complying with the mandate for my industry, I am currently unable to return to my beloved job of over 21 years in the same school and to the co-workers who are my second family. I realise now that I had been living in a bubble of ignorance for the past 2 years. Not unlike yourself, being an 'essential worker' I was one of the lucky ones who continued to work, no interruption to my pay packet and benefits and even classed in the category of 'hero'. I am currently living a polar opposite reality due to the consequences of my 'choice', 'no jab no job', a segregated life that I could have never envisaged living. Imagine if you can, at the age of 56 no longer living my independent life, but one that has been modified, monitored, controlled and emotionally crushed by harsh mandates imposed by the State. I live with the hope that I will be able to return to work one day, to resume being an independent individual, living with dignity and being an accepted part of society.

At the core of me I am a law and rule abider, I have lived by and promoted diversity, inclusivity, non-discrimination and tolerance, respecting each person's decision and choices as this was the foundation of my upbringing. Even though it is not reciprocated, I will continue to live by these standards, maintaining my integrity and humanity. I hope that one day we can all come together again as a proud State and not continue to be divided.

The mandated restrictions imposed by our State Government authorities have impacted greatly not only on myself but my family and friends who work across many sectors ranging from government, education, emergency services, tourism, retail, hospitality, health, entertainment, construction, personal services. The vast majority of them have continued to work in their field, they have 'done the right thing' but they have not been immune to the negative

impacts of the mandates - suffering great loss financially, emotional turmoil, family relationship breakdowns, loss of friends and family due to suicide and some suffering vaccine injury. Their stories have been heartbreaking and sadly, it appears that the voices of WE, the everyday people, are only being listened to by a small and rare handful of politicians.

They in turn are then drowned out by the majority who appear to disregard us, applauding and rewarding themselves on a job well done.

I hope it's all been worth it for the 'powers that be' politically, financially and for whatever other gain there may be to them, because the toll has been absolutely devastating on the everyday people.

As one of the leaders and representatives of the people of Queensland, I hope that you can sense that many have had enough of being oppressed, dictated to, coerced and controlled by the continual mandates. I sincerely hope that there is no further extension to the emergency powers because people need to be able to live their lives without continual government overreach. Many are losing faith in the system, they have been pushed far enough which is resulting in many pushing back, as is evidenced by the protests occurring in our State and around our country. I along with many others will not forget who supported WE the people when the time comes for us to vote.

Australia is apparently a democracy and power has been placed into the hands of the elected government by the people, to represent the people. These emergency powers are not democratic, we have been coerced, threatened, bullied, blackmailed and controlled and the extension of these powers only reinforces this. The extension of powers is partly based on COVID deaths in Queensland and COVID numbers and the ABS data is now showing the exaggeration of such data.

If you have read to the end, I thank you and if you have been one of the handful of leaders who has been standing up and speaking for all, sincere and heartfelt thanks to you.

Regards,
Mellissa van Slooten

