

From: [galroz](#)
To: [Community Support and Services Committee](#)
Subject: Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022
Date: Thursday, 3 March 2022 11:29:23 AM

Dear Committee

I **do not** support the passing of this Bill because a state of emergency suspends democracy, individual freedoms, decimates small businesses, and has a devastating effect on mental health. My mental health has been personally affected by the lockdowns, spreading of fear and separating and isolating people. I have now weekly sessions with a psychologist and am on sick leave.

Furthermore, a senior WHO official has said: "Covid-19 will never be eradicated, but society has a chance to end the public health emergency in 2022." Speaking at the World Economic Forum's virtual Davos Agenda event, Michael Ryan, executive director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, said. "We won't end the virus this year, we won't ever end the virus — what we can end is the public health emergency," he told a panel via videoconference.

I believe that between Omicron's variant, layered immunity, and therapies, it's safe to treat the virus like the flu and the time has come to end the Covid declaration of emergency and the accompanying closures, restrictions, distancing requirements, masking and vaccine mandates. Covid may circulate at some level forever, but Australians can now protect those vulnerable to it with standard medical procedures. They can treat it as they would the flu. Emergency measures need continuous justification and there isn't one anymore.

There is no longer any justification for the federal government and states to maintain their declarations of emergency. The lockdowns, personnel firings, shortages and social disruptions are doing at least as much damage to the population's health and welfare as the virus. The state of emergency is unjustified now, and it can't be justified by fears of a hypothetical recurrence of a more severe infection at some unknown point in the future.

Australians have sacrificed their rights and livelihoods for two years to protect the general public health. Government officials must now do their part and give Australians their lives back.

I trust the Committee will seriously and sincerely consider my statement.

Kind regards
Rose Hristova

