



## PACIFIC PINES MEDICAL CENTRE

*quality care with compassion*  
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03 March 2022

Committee Secretary  
Community Support & Services Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street QLD 4000  
Email: [cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

To Whom It May Concern,

### **Public Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022**

I am sending in this submission as a plea for help for my Medical Practice. We have been on the front line since the beginning of COVID-19 and have not received/asked for any help until now.

With the current Workers in a Healthcare Setting (COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements) Direction (No 3) – which states:

*“A worker in healthcare **must not enter, work in, or provide services in a healthcare setting unless the worker in healthcare complies with the COVID-19 vaccination requirements.**”*

***The COVID-19 vaccination requirements are that:***

***a worker in healthcare must be fully vaccinated;***

I currently have 2 doctors who are unvaccinated and not able to come into work – which is causing a lot of stress on my other doctors. We are a very busy practice and I’m afraid the extra stress we are adding to our doctors will lead to burnout and having to have time off. I also have another doctor who will be going onto maternity leave at the end of this month.

Now that our Vaccine rate is over 90%, I don’t see the difference between a vaccinated doctor and an unvaccinated doctor – we can ALL pass on the virus to others, weather we are vaccinated or not. Currently I can stand in line at Coles next to an unvaccinated person (with them not wearing a mask), and as of Friday no one wearing a mask. I can also go to an event (sport, concert) after Friday and sit next to an unvaccinated person for 2 hours without knowing.

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Dr Simon Hong, Dr Vinh Lao, Dr Peter Yaxley, Dr John Parsons,  
Dr Cindy Lee, Dr Mandeep Ranhotra, Dr Puneet Pannu, Dr Kerry Lowe

Politicians can be unvaccinated and still allowed to go to work, this double standard needs to be addressed.

Doctors are in short supply, and if we can't get ALL Doctors back to working our Healthcare System will fail. For the last 2 years "Normal" medicine has been put on the back burner EG: skin checks, preventive screening etc, as COVID-19 has taken over all health matters. But now we are living with this virus "Normal" medicine is starting to come back, but unfortunately Medical Practices can't see all their patients as we are short of doctors who can work.

This is not just for doctors, our nurses, hospitals, aged care facilities, specialists and reception are short staffed because of this Health Direction.

The Health Direction needs to be re-addressed and changed to work now. Procedures could be put into place to make this work within the Healthcare setting.

EG:

- Must do a RAT test prior to work
- Must wear a mask
- Inform patients they are unvaccinated
- Do not come to work with any symptom

Government Departments are looking at lifting their mandate for their employees to be fully vaccinated, so why can't Healthcare Settings?

We need our doctors to be at work working and seeing patients. Telehealth appointments have helped but now a lot of patients are approaching their 12 months since being in the practice. Our unvaccinated doctors need to come back to work to relieve our other doctors and see their patients face-2-face again.

I am sending in this submission to have the current Workers in a Healthcare Setting (COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements) Direction (No 3) to be reassessed to work in our current situation.

Thank you



Tara Harley  
Practice Manager

[Redacted contact information]