

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

Kim Luke


3rd March 2022

**RE: PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING
PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

Dear Committee members,

I am writing to say that I DO NOT support the above bill for the reasons outlined below.

I live in Cairns which has barely been impacted by the actual virus for which the state of emergency was declared, yet the consequences of this bill have been devastating. Once a bustling tourism hub, the past 2 years, and particularly since the December 17th mandates were introduced, have turned it into a ghost town. So many businesses are suffering. From tour boat companies who once took visitors out to the Great Barrier Reef every day, to restaurants and cafes who cannot get staff, and have lost many customers. Nobody I know continues to believe that the mandates are effective or necessary.

I personally have lost 2 jobs which I spent a lifetime and 7 years of university study to gain. I was a guidance officer at a school where 60% of the student population are Indigenous and many are in the hands of the Department of Child Safety. My role was critical there. My other job was as a child and adolescent counsellor providing counselling support to children and families in need. Surely, I can't be a bad person for wanting to improve the lives of others? I lost these jobs after doing hundreds of hours of research and making the choice not to be injected with an mRNA vaccine that is still in a trial phase and only authorised for emergency use. Additionally, all of the available vaccines in Australia were developed for the original Wuhan strain of the virus, not any of the subsequent strands, which makes them ineffective against the Omicron strand (as we can now see – the case numbers have exploded despite the reported 90% double vaccinated rate).

The serious side effects of the Pfizer vaccines, as published in the Cumulative Analysis of Post-Authorisation Adverse Event Reports of PF -07302048 (BNT162B2) Through 28-FEB-2021, are still largely under-reported but they are significant. The long term effects are unknown. Furthermore, most of my previous colleagues who are vaccinated have now been infected with the Omicron variant of the virus, had mild symptoms and carried on working. Many of my unvaccinated friends (and probably me too) have been infected and had only mild symptoms. Kids at schools are being infected every day and, as their immune systems are designed to protect them, they also are fine after a day or two. The Omicron variant alone is not killing people. The ABS clearly shows the data; that twice as many people died from influenza infection in 2019 than in the whole of the 2 year pandemic from SARS-cov-2 infection. The Omicron strain does not result in serious illness for 99.9% of people.

How can these figures classify Queensland as being in a 'public health emergency' now? Why was a public health emergency not declared in previous years when the influenza virus killed more people? How can our government be promoting tourism in Queensland if we are in the midst of a public health emergency?

There are plenty of scientists around the world who have conducted studies showing that mandates and lockdowns do not work. Coming from a mental health perspective, I know how devastating the last 2 years have been, especially for children and babies who, due to mask wearing mandates, are being denied the most basic and developmentally essential form of connection – facial expression. Not to mention the serious long-term impact on mental health for adolescents and adults. Loss of income, feelings of worthlessness, loneliness, domestic violence, substance abuse, suicidal ideation, loss of connection with peers and family members, increased anxiety, depression, discrimination, self-harm and PTSD to name a few.

The long term impact of the decisions being made by our government are likely to be devastating for many. I am one of those. The students and families I worked with to support and help overcome adversity are many others.

I do not agree with the proposal to extend the state of emergency laws in Queensland. I hope that you may also see sense in this.

Kind regards,



Kim Luke

3/3/2022