

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

To Whom it may concern.

SUBMISSION FOR THE 'PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2022'.

This submission requests that the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022, is not upheld and overturned.

The Health Ministers request to further extend the operation of essential public health measures implemented to facilitate Queensland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic should be rejected.

Queensland needs to terminate the 'state of emergency' laws and associated medical mandates, medical interventions, restrictions, and vaccine passports immediately. The Government's transitional regulation-making powers under Part 9 of the original Emergency Response Act 2020 must also be terminated.

While it is understood that the 'state of emergency' was required in the early phase of the pandemic through 2020, as there was so much unknown about how the Covid 19 virus would behave and impact the health system; the way forward to live with Covid 19 as we live with other viruses is clear, *and this was stated in Health Minister, Yvette D'Ath's parliamentary address* while in the same address she was requesting an extension of the emergency expiring provisions.

- Treatment protocols and infection control measures are now well established globally.
- According to the Queensland Government Health Minister, Yvette D'Ath, the health system is working effectively and there is hospital capacity for illness surges. Therefore there is no need for emergency powers, even with new variants arising.
- We have been living under emergency powers for 2 years, these emergency powers now only serve to bring uncertainty in the broader community.
- The continuous changing of directives at the drop of a hat is confusing and frustrating. We are unable to plan anything as lockdowns, border closures, quarantine rules and mandates may change if the Health Minister deems there is an emergency.
- It is very difficult under these emergency powers to make long term decisions or plan for the future.
- The Covid 19 death statistics in Australia and in Queensland do not support any further emergency measures (REF <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/causes-death>) showing that in 2021, nationwide (from) Covid 19 deaths amount to less than 1% of all death causes in Australia, even less in Queensland.
- The Queensland population has achieved over 90% 2 dose vaccination, 2 doses considered by the majority of countries as fully vaccinated.

- The people suffering and dying from (not with) Covid 19 are typically those who suffer similarly from influenza and a high percentage have pre-existing conditions as repeatedly reported by the Queensland Chief Health Officer.
- Small businesses have suffered income loss firstly through lock down, then through border closures, quarantines, and restrictions, and now are suffering lost income through mandates which don't only preclude the unvaccinated, but the extended family and friendship groups by association.
- The mental health impact on small business owners is immeasurable.
- Businesses in all spheres have been pressured by the Government directives to implement vaccine mandates for staff, contractors, suppliers and customers. As a direct result these businesses have suffered the loss of experienced staff due to these mandates.
- Remaining staff are struggling with additional workloads and extended hours, we have firsthand experience in this.
- Mental health and substance abuse is on the rise owing to the perpetual flow of Covid 19 news and governmental overreach (example 2020 - Alcohol-induced death rates increased by 8.3%. REF: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/causes-death/causes-death-australia/2020>).

We have been personally impacted by the emergency measures on many occasions:

- Family members, relatives and friends have closed businesses, lost income and/or employment due directly to the emergency measures and mandates.
- Relationships have suffered, there is a perception of having to take sides with distrust instead of respect and compassion for the individual.
- There is a palatable divide in the community which is directly attributable to measures brought in by the state of emergency powers granted to the government.
- The community breakdown is still salvageable but may be irrevocably damaged if these measures are allowed to continue.

Our most recent experience of the effect of the emergency powers and mandate impact was in February 2022. The emergency department at the Gold Coast University Hospital was so overwhelmed, not by Covid 19, but by understaffing caused by vaccine mandates, that a relative had to **sit in the car park outside the Emergency Department for 4 hours** at night running a fever of 40 degrees (he had been previously cleared of Covid by doctors) only to be sent home the next day without any diagnosis.

Later that day he was rushed to the the Mater Private in a grave state and was diagnosed with an acute viral infection following emergency diagnostic treatment. He spent 4 days in hospital.

This experience was akin to third world hospital treatment and sadly not representative of a functioning first world democracy we had experienced over previous years.

FROM THE ABS - 2021:

Provisional deaths data for measuring changes in patterns of mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery period.

REF: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/causes-death/provisional-mortality-statistics/jan-2020-nov-2021>

- In 2021, 136,800 deaths occurred by 30 November and were registered by 31 January 2022.

- 2,639 deaths where people died **with or from** COVID-19 that occurred by 31 January 2022 have been registered and received by the ABS. The ABS expects to receive further registrations for this period from the jurisdictional Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- Chronic cardiac conditions were the most common pre-existing chronic condition for those who had COVID-19 certified as the underlying cause of death.

FROM THE ABS - 2020:

REF: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/causes-death/causes-death-australia/2020>

Key statistics:

- COVID-19 was the 38th leading cause of death (898 deaths).

For the 898 people who died from COVID-19 in 2020:

- **Their median age at death was 86 years.**
- Dementia was the most common pre-existing condition (275 deaths).
- Chronic cardiac conditions, hypertension and diabetes were also commonly reported comorbidities.

While most countries around the world have recognised the current Covid 19 data no longer supports the continuation of the “emergency essential public health measures” and have been winding back all measures; Queensland wants to the ability to impose more “emergency measures” without cause.

These Provisions or ‘state of emergency’ laws are being seen now as being more about control and power than about being in the public interest or about health and safety.

I urge the Community Support and Services Committee to further research the up to date global findings from the CDC, the NIH, Lancet publications and many more medical peer reviewed publications on the state of the current Covid 19 pandemic, Covid infection statistics, latest treatment protocols, vaccine efficacy and mRNA technology safety data that is now available for public scrutiny. Links to this information are easily found and can be provided on request.

I further urge the Committee to consult the people of Queensland on the legitimacy of the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill and its implications of the current pandemic measures. Very few in my circle are aware of this bill as there are a number of issues people are dealing with at the moment. The mechanism of public consultation should be broad-based, independent of government, and a cross-section of representation. The Government must not forget that it has been elected to represent the will the of the Queensland people and to act in their best interest.

Thank you for consideration of my submission.

Respectfully

Adrian Maxwell

