

Notice of Submission

To the attention of: The Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, The Hon. Yvette D'Ath MP

Submission related to: Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022.

We, Mr Christopher and Mrs Melinda Borg of [REDACTED] wish to formally advise that we do not support the Bill nor the extension of the state of emergency in Queensland.

You have not provided sufficient evidence, relating to the justification and/or lawful relevance of the bill, to the people of Queensland. Current data demonstrates that there is no requirement for an extension to the State of Emergency or justification for the continued implementation of Covid-19 related restrictions and mandates.

A Media Statement from the Prime Minister's office, dated 10 February 2022, notes: 'overall case numbers continue to decline in Australia and that the Omicron variant continues to be the predominant variant in Australia and Globally' (<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-66>). The Media Statement also explains that 'Omicron continues to show... much less severity in terms of hospitalisations, ICU and ventilated patients' (<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-66>). Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, also recognises the minimal threat posed by the Omicron variant, asserting that 'Omicron itself is a vastly milder disease' (<https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/interview-with-chris-kenny-of-sky-news-the-kenny-report-on-trikafta-covid-19-vaccination-mandates-and-covid-19-mortality-rates>).

The substantially falling case numbers and reduced threat of serious illness posed by Omicron is clearly evident in the Australian government's published data (<https://www.health.gov.au/health-alerts/covid-19/case-numbers-and-statistics#daily-cases>). Consequently, the demand on the public health system is alleviated. Underlining the diminishing impacts on Queensland's hospital system caused by Omicron, Queensland's Chief Health Officer, Dr John Gerrard, stated that the 'impact on hospitals is coming well under control' (<https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/australia/qld-records-6-covid-19-deaths-6479-cases/ar-AAUxdPP>).

The State of Emergency has also seen unnecessary restrictions and mandates imposed on citizens who face minimal risk from Omicron. Data from the Australian Bureau of statistics clearly shows that those at risk are the elderly, particularly those with co-morbidity factors. More specifically, this data shows that the median age of people who have died from Covid-19 is 83.7 years, and those who have died have had an average of 2.7 significant co-morbidities (<https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/covid-19-mortality-australia#deaths-due-to-covid-19-in-australia>). These risk factors are also highlighted by Greg Hunt: 'it's 58 per cent ... of those that have passed in aged care recently, for which there's data available, are in the palliative stage' (<https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/interview-with-chris-kenny-of-sky-news-the-kenny-report-on-trikafta-covid-19-vaccination-mandates-and-covid-19-mortality-rates>). In striking contrast, serious outcomes related to Covid-19 cases in younger healthy people are minimal. John Gerrard states that in Queensland, 'there has been no increase in hospitalisations of school aged children that we

have detected so far' (<https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/australia/qld-records-6-covid-19-deaths-6479-cases/ar-AAUxdPP>).

Furthermore, restrictions and mandates, including mask wearing and vaccinations are ineffective and unjustifiable. A channel Nine News story from 3 March, 2022 reported ten Covid-19 deaths in Queensland - people ranging in age from their 50' to their 90's. Of the ten people who died, eight were vaccinated – three had received a booster shot. Four of the ten were in aged care. Two were unvaccinated (<https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/australia/qld-records-6-covid-19-deaths-6479-cases/ar-AAUxdPP>). Whilst daily data may fluctuate, the numbers from this day show that:

- The greatest number of deaths occur in aged care
- Eight out of ten people who died were fully vaccinated
- 50% more people died who had been triple vaccinated than those who were unvaccinated

This snapshot shows that the risk posed by Omicron to younger healthy people is minimal and that sweeping mandates imposed via the State of Emergency in Queensland are ineffective and unnecessary. Coupled with falling case numbers and the milder nature of the predominant Omicron variant, there is no necessity or justification to extend the State of Emergency in Queensland.

The ineffectiveness of vaccination mandates has been exposed in multiple studies in the internationally respected medical journal *The Lancet*:

Vaccine effectiveness studies have conclusively demonstrated the benefit of COVID-19 vaccines in reducing individual symptomatic and severe disease, resulting in reduced hospitalisations and intensive care unit admissions.

However, the impact of vaccination on transmissibility of SARS-CoV-2 needs to be elucidated. A prospective cohort study in the UK by Anika Singanayagam and colleagues regarding community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 among unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals provides important information that needs to be considered in reassessing vaccination policies. This study showed that the impact of vaccination on community transmission of circulating variants of SARS-CoV-2 appeared to be not significantly different from the impact among unvaccinated people.

The scientific rationale for mandatory vaccination in the USA relies on the premise that vaccination prevents transmission to others, resulting in a “pandemic of the unvaccinated”.

Yet, the demonstration of COVID-19 breakthrough infections among fully vaccinated health-care workers (HCW) in Israel, who in turn may transmit this infection to their patients, requires a reassessment of compulsory vaccination policies leading to the job dismissal of unvaccinated HCW in the USA. Indeed, there is growing evidence that peak viral titres in the upper airways of the lungs and culturable virus are similar in vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.^{2,3,5-7} A recent investigation by the US Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention of an outbreak of COVID-19 in a prison in Texas showed the equal presence of infectious virus in the nasopharynx of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

Similarly, researchers in California observed no major differences between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in terms of SARS-CoV-2 viral loads in the nasopharynx, even in those with proven asymptomatic infection.

Thus, the current evidence suggests that current mandatory vaccination policies might need to be reconsidered, and that vaccination status should not replace mitigation practices such as mask wearing, physical distancing, and contact-tracing investigations, even within highly vaccinated populations.

([https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(21\)00768-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(21)00768-4/fulltext))

Therefore, as Citizens of the Commonwealth of Australia, we hereby declare the above proposed bill, be revoked or withdrawn when the current expiration date of the bill ends on the 30 April 2022.

Yours sincerely

Christopher & Melinda Borg