

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

Committee Secretary
Community Support and Services Committee
Email: cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

I am born and bred Queenslanders who has resided in Queensland my whole life, and I wish to advise that I am opposed to the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022 due to the facts that there is no longer a public health emergency, and the proposed bill restricts our human rights.

International human rights state that “any limitations on human rights should be the minimum necessary to address the emergency and in place for the shortest time needed to deal with the emergency.”⁽¹⁾ The Covid-19 emergency is truly over, and the recent ABS statistics have put the threat of Covid-19 into perspective with less than 1% of Australians dying from or with covid and 92% having underlying health conditions.⁽²⁾ Restrictions imposed on citizens have caused more than enough distress on Queenslanders’ livelihoods, families and mental health and this extension would only exacerbate these problems.

Countries around the world are dropping vaccination mandates and restrictions as they realise the threat of covid-19 is no longer as dire as that seen at the beginning of the pandemic and Australia should follow suit. Extension of these emergency powers give unnecessary control to the Chief Health Officer and Queensland Government and go against our democracy and Australian Values which include “respect for the freedom and dignity of the individual”.⁽³⁾

It is time to put an end to the government overreach into our lives and recognise that individuals can make their own decisions regarding their own health around Covid-19 just as we already do with influenza and other viruses.

Regards,
Jennifer Brennan



(1) <https://humanrights.gov.au/about/covid19-and-human-rights/what-commissions-view-limiting-human-rights-during-covid-19>

(2) <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/covid-19-mortality-australia>

(3) <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/australian-values>