



4 March 2022

Committee Secretary  
Community Support and Services Committee  
Email: [cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee Secretary

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

I write with regards to the stated bill and wish to formally advise you that I **DO NOT** support this Bill nor the extension of the state of emergency. Through detailed reading of the bill I have made comments regarding certain sections of the bill as stated below.

**OVERVIEW OF THE BILL**

**Page 1 – Statistics based on figures given**

According to the figures stated, there have been approximately 400 million Covid cases in the world from which 6 million have died which means a 1.5% death rate. In Australia the figures given equal a 0.18% death rate and in Queensland a 0.07% death rate. **According to the ABS Covid is the 38<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Australia.** How do any of these statistics indicate a pandemic or justify an extension to the emergency bill?

**Page 1** - “Pandemic continues to be unpredictable, and factors such as the emergence of new variants”

Any variants that emerge from this point on will be more infectious but less deadly as that is the way a virus works. No subsequent variant can be stronger than the initial variant as that would be destructive to the initial variant and thereby kill itself off. [Do Viruses Evolve to Be Less Deadly? - News @ Northeastern](#)

**Page 1** - “ensure public health objectives are met while also balancing social and economic needs of the community”

To date there has been very little balance of the social and economic needs of the community over the past two years and a continuation of this bill will continue to degrade these needs. The social implications of lockdowns has affected people of all ages but in particular the aged and the young. Both of these age groups need social interaction to survive and thrive and the current isolation requirements have disadvantaged both of these groups.

Economic needs have been completely disregarded as businesses have been forced to closed, jobs have been taken away and currently we are seeing all sectors suffering.

## AMENDMENTS TO EXTEND PUBLIC HEALTH COVID-19 MEASURES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 2005

### **Page 6 – Right to Life**

“to put in place measures that would protect an individual from real and immediate risks to their life”

While it is possible that individuals have been protected from the initial risks of Covid-19 with the measures used over the last two years, there are also individuals who have also harmed by the measures: People who have had their life ruined by adverse reactions to the vaccine, people who have lost their businesses due to lockdowns, people who have lost friends/family/jobs over the mandates, people who have suffered with their mental health, people who have been denied access to seeing their loved ones in the last moments of their lives, people who have been forbidden from coming home to their state and residence for months due to border closures. **There are many aspects to a person’s health and Covid doesn’t have the right to trump them all.**

### PROTECTION FROM TORTURE AND CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

**Page 7** – “a person must not be subjected to medical or scientific experimentation or treatment without the person’s full, free and informed consent.”

With doctors being silenced and information on the internet being taken down, getting informed consent has been difficult and as such the people have been subjected to a medical experimentation based on fear and coercion. This is not acceptable in a democratic society.

### Public Health Covid-19 measures

**Page 7 - Nature of the right** “every person has the right to enjoy the person’s human rights without discrimination”

For the past two years discrimination has been rife in our state and country. Discrimination against businesses has been ongoing since the first lockdown when only essential businesses were allowed to open. Every business is essential, just by its very existence it is a source of income for a person to be able to buy food, medicines and pay bills, the necessities of being able to live and keep a roof over your head.

Since December 17, as a state, the people have been subjected to segregation and discrimination based on a vaccine status even though science has proved that vaccination does not stop the transmission of the virus and this was no more evident than in Queensland. Queensland had very few cases in 2020 and 2021 and with the closure of the borders had plenty of time to prepare for Covid inflections. State borders were not opened until a high vaccination rate was met and then only the fully vaccinated were allowed in and within a short period of time covid cases rose dramatically proving beyond doubt that the vaccination did not stop transmission. Since December 17 it is once again the hospitality industry that has been discriminated against with certain venues unable to have full patronage due to the vaccine mandate. Given the nature of the Omicron variant and the fact that it is the predominant strand in Queensland and any future strands will be less deadly, no industry in Queensland could be classified as high risk and as such all businesses should be allowed to return to normal operation with all residents of Queensland allowed to enter where they wish without any discrimination or segregation.

### **Page 8 - Freedom of movement**

Over the past two years, Queenslanders have suffered enough with the restrictions of movements that have been imposed on them. They have been physically locked out of their own state for months, sitting just over the border and unable to get home and attend to their property or animals, children have been locked down unable to attend school, social occasions, sporting activities all which are necessary for the healthy development of a child, those in aged care have been isolated from the people they love and locked away in rooms which has impacted their mental health and will to live. **This is not care. This is abuse.** And all this while football games with hundreds of people have been allowed to go ahead.

### **Page 8 - Right to Privacy**

A person's medical information has always been private and should remain so under any circumstances. Medical procedures, especially those of an experimental nature, should not be a requirement of employment, travel or entry to any business.

### **Page 10 – Right to Property**

The threat of Covid does not equal the threat of losing your business, your employment or your livelihood.

### **Page 10 – Right to protection of families and children**

Measures put in place over the past two years have severely affected family units. Children have been unable to visit parents, grandparents, other relatives due to lockdowns and border closures, families and friends have been torn apart by individuals making a medical decision, people have missed the opportunity to see loved ones in their last moments of life and then not been able to attend their funeral, the family unit has been put under pressure due to lockdowns with family members unable to leave the home and parents trying to juggle working from home and caring for children.

### **Page 11 – Right to liberty and security of person**

“The Bill also extends the time that an emergency officer (medical) can detain a person under a detention order to 14 days.” Why would the bill revert to 14 days when currently it is only 7 days? This seems like a step in the wrong direction. Businesses and people have suffered enough over the last two years and many are currently suffering due to lack of staff with the 7 day period, to increase it to 14 days would just add further pressure.

“Public health directions made by the Chief Health Officer are not time limited, however the directions must be revoked once the direction is no longer necessary to assist in containing or responding to the spread of Covid-19 in the community”

The ongoing restrictions have been slowly but surely eased as time goes on. Currently the state is in a position where all the current restrictions should be lifted and people given the right to be responsible for themselves. After all we are a species of intelligent beings and are able to make decisions in the best interest of ourselves. It is definitely time the government took a step back and allowed us, the people, to do this.

**Page 12 – Right to Education**

Education is a basic right and this right has been completely violated over the last two years. The flow of delivery has been interrupted, events have continually been cancelled and now children are suffering from a teacher shortage due to vaccine mandates. Education in Queensland has always been behind the southern states and the continual restrictions being imposed are not helping. Schools are not a high-risk setting. Children have over 99% chance of recovering from Covid and further ongoing restrictions over the next six months are completely unnecessary.

**Page 12 – Right to Health Services**

“Every person has the right to access health services without discrimination”

Since December 17 so many people have been discriminated against based on their vaccination status. People have presented to the emergency department and been treated like outcasts. Doctor practices have banned unvaccinated persons from attending their clinic. Non -urgent procedures and check ups have been placed on hold endangering the ongoing health and lives of these patients. **These measures can not continue.** We were a first world country with top health cover but unfortunately thanks to the Covid measures being enforced this is no longer the case. Hospitals are understaffed and the staff that are there are overworked and meanwhile thousands of capable nurses, doctors and paramedics are unable to work due to the vaccine mandate.

**Page 13-14** – “The purpose of the Bill, cannot be achieved through any other reasonably available and less restrictive means”

Having lived with the restrictions and the government campaigning for the past two years, the people of Queensland are more than aware of the risks involved with Covid and are able to be responsible for themselves. Other countries like Sweden, Denmark, UK, Norway, Tanzania, Iceland have removed all internal covid restrictions. Given the measures, Australia as a country and the States have taken over the past two years we are also in a position to also release all internal covid restrictions. “The covid pandemic continues to evolve across Australia and internationally,” – the only evolution will be towards an epidemic which is basically where we are now and therefore the power that has been given to the Chief Health Officer and emergency officers is no longer required.

**Page 22** – “As the rollout of Covid-19 vaccines and booster continues in Australia and overseas”

As previously stated, many overseas countries have dropped all vaccine and booster requirements. Pfizer themselves have said the current vaccine does not work on the Omicron variant. At 90.9% fully vaccinated in Queensland the rollout has been completed and people should now be allowed the freedom to choose if they would like the booster.

## CHANGES TO TIME PERIODS

Throughout the bill there have been many increases to the time periods that currently exist.

**Pages 7, 11, 12, 14, 20, and 21** all discuss increasing isolation and quarantine periods to 14 days when currently it is 7. This increase is NOT “reasonable and proportionate response to the risk of COVID-19 spreading and accordingly, the ability to detain a person is not arbitrary” as stated in the bill. With current measures working effectively at 7 days it seems this increase is completely unnecessary and all it does it raise the incidents of mental health disorders particularly in the case of children and elderly.

Changes in the Correct Services Act (**pages 25 & 31**) from 3 days to 90 days or the end of the Covid-19 emergency and in the Disaster Management Act (**pages 38, 39 & 40**) from 14 days to 90 days. For the past two years the government has been able to successfully work with the confines of the lower number in these Acts, it would therefore seem excessive and unreasonable to make such a large increase to these.

## CONCLUSION

In my opinion this bill is completely unnecessary and seems to just be a way for the government to continue excessive management of its people. The people of the government are elected by the people for the people and it is time the government started listening to the people. Numerous petitions have been signed, letters and emails have been sent, comments made on social media posts and rallies have been held. These are all indications to the government that the people who elected them have had enough. It is time the government recognized the people as intellectual, free thinking, self-managing beings who are able to be responsible for their own health and wellbeing and the measures that are being outlined in this bill have expired and are unnecessary for the protection of the people.

Yours sincerely

Linda Bradshaw