

Daniel Allen  
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4 March 2022

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

**RE: Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022**

To the Committee Secretary,

I wish to clearly state my opposition to the continuation of Queensland's State of Emergency. The facts simply do not support it.

Since the State of Emergency was declared nearly two years ago, in Queensland we have had [582,696 cases of COVID resulting in 507 deaths](#)<sup>1</sup>. That is a case fatality rate of 0.087 (or one death for every 1,149 cases).

By contrast, in Queensland from 2017 to 2019, we saw [140,463 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza, and 571 deaths](#)<sup>2</sup>. That is a case fatality rate of 0.407 (or one death for every 246 cases) — more than four-and-a-half times what we've seen with COVID — yet a State of Emergency was never declared during that time.

We have [12,748 public hospital beds](#)<sup>3</sup> in Queensland, with only [315 currently being occupied by COVID patients](#)<sup>4</sup>. That's just 2.42%. At the peak of the Omicron wave (25 January), there were a total of 928 COVID patients in hospital, or 7.28% of total capacity. The much-feared strain on our healthcare system, which has been the main justification for the continued extension of the State of Emergency, simply has not eventuated.

The current Chief Health Officer has himself stated numerous times since he took over the position that [COVID would inevitably become endemic](#)<sup>5</sup>. With over 11% of Queensland's population having tested positive to the virus, and nearly 90% double vaccinated against it, we have well and truly reached that point.

There is simply no valid reason to extend the State of Emergency beyond the current expiration of 26 March. To do so would be cynical in the extreme, and a gross betrayal of the public trust.

Sincerely

Daniel Allen  
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<sup>1</sup> <https://covidlive.com.au/qld>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/queensland-s-record-flu-season-killed-five-a-week-in-2019-20200114-p53rgv.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/patients-steered-into-private-hospital-beds-ahead-of-virus-peak-20220114-p59oah.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://covidlive.com.au/report/daily-hospitalised/qld?sort=date>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/cho-hopeful-queensland-can-surf-current-wave-out-of-the-pandemic-20211231-p59l6j.html>