

Jessie M Kajtar



Queensland Parliamentary Community  
And Services Committee

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

To the Parliamentary Committee Members

I am calling for an end to the Queensland (and all states) government's emergency powers act. The measures employed under this act, in particular, the compulsory (and voluntary) job vaccination mandates, have caused untold hardship and suffering for a significant number of the Queensland population. There is a great silence surrounding the effects of mandates on unvaccinated people who have lost jobs to the mandates and any reasonable debate on extending mandates needs to consider the suffering of the unvaccinated when balancing the scales of fairness for all.

All throughout the early vaccination rollout program we listened as Jeannette Young extolled the virtues of making decisions based on the risk versus benefit principle. In this case, the risks to employee's welfare of continuing mandates through emergency powers does not even provide benefits since there is no proof that unvaccinated are more infectious than unvaccinated.

The justification for all the state government's emergency powers and consequent denial of individual liberties has been questionable from the outset. Any plausibility for justification of the emergency powers lies in the proof that the measures employed effectively reduce the loss of life, disability or hardship caused to people.

Australian Bureau of Statistics reports the deaths for influenza at a higher rate in 2019 than we have seen in the entire pandemic for Covid19. There are reports of the numbers of covid19 deaths being exaggerated through unreliable or misleading reporting of the causes of death. The mandates, especially the job mandates, are therefore having no impact on the death rate.

The job mandates have caused considerable upheaval in schools, childcare centres, hospitals, ambulance services, retail outlets and other services and businesses. It is time to remove the mandates and allow services and business to recover from the pandemic.

This week, Justice Cooke in New Zealand passed down a verdict abolishing the vaccination mandate for police and defence force personnel. Justice Cooke concluded that vaccination has not been effective in preventing transmission therefore there was no justification for limiting fundamental rights since vaccinated and unvaccinated alike were spreading the disease.

Queensland and Australia as a whole needs to follow the lead of other countries; UK, Canada, Sweden, US and Denmark who are removing vaccination mandates and emergency powers. The emergency powers bill extension has no place in a free and democratic society as people's basic rights to refuse medical treatment (and retain employment) should not be taken lightly.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Jessie M Kajtar.

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