

TO:  
Committee Secretary  
Community Support and Services Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

FROM:  
Wayne & Lisa Wolff

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

Dear  
Ms Lynda Pretty, *Acting Committee Secretary*  
Ms Roylene Mills, *Assistant Committee Secretary*  
Ms Caitlin Williams, *Committee Support Officer*

Ms Corrine McMillan, Member for Mansfield (Chair)  
Mr Stephen Bennett, Member for Burnett (Deputy Chair)  
Mr Michael Berkman, Member for Maiwar  
Mr Jon Krause, Member for Scenic Rim  
Ms Cynthia Lui, Member for Cook  
Mr Robert Skelton, Member for Nicklin

We hereby make a submission to the Community Support and Services Committee regarding the Public Health and other legislation (extension of expiring provisions) amendment bill 2022.

- We do not support this bill in any form.
- We do not support the extension of the extraordinary emergency powers in Queensland at this stage.
- We do not support further extension of the operation of essential public health measures implemented to facilitate Queensland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Australian Bureau of statistics released COVID-19 Mortality data as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, which reveals that a maximum of 69 Queenslanders have died of the virus to date. \*Provisional data.

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

Whilst any death is not desirable, it is a fact that Queenslanders die every day, from a multitude of diseases, accidents, disasters and crimes. The number of Queenslanders who have died directly from Covid-19 is relatively low.

We did support the extraordinary measures at the beginning of the spread of the virus, when many factors were unknown and it was necessary to contain outbreaks, restrict movement and trace contacts. Since March 2020, much data, expert medical opinion and information of what has happened in actuality, in reality, has become available which has countered many of the measures which have been pursued by the Queensland Government.

It is our considered opinion that for some time, the public health measures in Queensland have been excessive and mostly unnecessary.

We still support measures to protect the vulnerable and elderly, but these must be on a case-by-case basis, and not a blanket approach where the healthy are penalised and restricted 'just in case'.

- We do not support continued contact tracing, mandatory testing, mandatory wearing of masks, vaccination mandates and exclusion of Queenslanders from any venues based on vaccination status.
- We do not support the extension of powers to enable the Chief Health Officer to prescribe restrictions on Queenslanders and restrictive public health measures in relation to Covid-19.
- We do not support any further extension of the current public health emergency.
- We do not support the use of government arranged quarantine, except for overseas travellers.
- We do not support putting restrictions in place at short notice. In the case that some new health threat emerges, we expect the Queensland government to act promptly and efficiently in consultation with concerned stakeholders to put the required measures in place.
- We do not support an ongoing climate and environment of fear in relation to this or any virus or health threat. We support conservative public health measures which require individual Queenslanders to take responsibility for their own health and safety. We support educational programmes which operate on the basis of taking responsibility to manage risk, rather than a fear-based approach.
- We have not seen the exercise of discretionary powers of the Chief Health Officer to not use the powers if the risk does not warrant a response. The response has to date been in excess of what has been warranted. We do not support this to continue any longer.
- We do not support the continued restriction of business, including limiting access and closures.
- We do not support forced quarantine.
- We do support staying home for people who are unwell.
- We do not support further subjugation of Queenslanders' human rights to the public health issues.

We encourage the Community Support and Services Committee to actively and honestly consider the potential costs of extending the public health legislation in businesses closed and severely impacted, in other health issues undetected with the difficulty accessing medical services, long-term impact on children's mental health development, job losses, segregation and division of society, valuable employees excluded from employment, income and supporting their families, living in an environment of fear - as weighed up against the saving of very few lives. We also encourage the committee to consider the many negative effects of the public health measures so far, and understand that this will only continue.

We do not support the continuation of unnecessary powers given to unelected public servants. We will be requesting an investigation into the mishandling of the public health emergency by our Premier, Chief Medical Officers, Health Minister and Governor as we firmly believe that as public servants and elected officials, they are accountable to the residents of Queensland for their decisions and impacts of such.

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission and charge you with the responsibility to truthfully and carefully consider all submissions and make your report to parliament in honesty and good conscience. We will undertake to pray that you will receive wisdom and understanding to carry out your responsibilities in this matter.

Yours sincerely,  
Wayne & Lisa Wolff