From: Keanu Jones

To: <u>Community Support and Services Committee</u>

Subject: No More Public Emergency

Date: Friday, 4 March 2022 9:59:51 AM

My name is Keanu.

I reside in

Daytime number is:

I wish to state that I believe there is no reasonable grounds for the Emergency Powers to be extended. We are two years into this pandemic with a majority of the Australian population vaccinated. Despite lockdowns, vaccination campaigns, the closure of our country's borders, and all policies put into place, the case numbers and deaths have never hit zero in two years. One may argue that the Emergency Powers helped lessen the impact, but we now know in hindsight that that is all it could do. We have experienced drastic and severe measures to lesser ones, and at no point has COVID stopped.

The population and Government has had two years to get its affairs in order and to come up with a strategy. Anyone who wanted to be vaccinated has been – and whilst this may have reduced cases and hospitalizations, it hasn't even stopped the vaccinated from contracting COVID.

We have treatment protocols. Vaccine protection. Natural immunity protection. Ways to test and track positive cases. We should have a good idea by now what COVID is likely to do and who is most at risk.

I think it is unreasonable to act as if we are still in a state of emergency given what we know, or ought to know, by now.

Many country's have lifted their COVID mandates, and many have stated it is time to learn to live with it the same as any other cold or flu or other illnesses.

The effects of lockdowns, business restrictions, vaccine mandates, social distancing, isolation/quarantining, and many other aspects pertaining to the COVID prevention strategy also have not come without costs. It is likely we can no longer act like we are in the midst of this crisis when we could be focusing on recovering from the psychological and economic impacts of the mandates.

It is time for Governments to give up the Emergency powers they have granted themselves and steer the country back into something akin to normality.

Kindest regards

Sent from Mail for Windows