

From: [Ashlee Richards](#)
To: [Community Support and Services Committee](#)
Subject: Objection to extension of the Emergency Provisions
Date: Friday, 4 March 2022 8:46:11 AM

Dear Committee Secretary

My name is Ashlee Richards and I am writing to say that I DO NOT want an extension to the Emergency Bill and ask that the vaccination mandate and restrictions be immediately lifted for all Queenslanders.

This government policy has proven ineffective for reducing the number of covid cases across the state and has instead marginalised members of society, financially impacted businesses and families and divided people within the community.

IRRELEVANCE OF THE MANDATE

The extension of powers is based on number of covid cases and deaths in Queensland. Evidence has shown the vaccine to be ineffective in reducing the transmission of the Omicron variant, as confirmed by the CEO of Pfizer. Therefore, it is unreasonable to believe that mass vaccinations are necessary to assist in containing the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland.

ABS reports 2,639 deaths of people with or from COVID-19 by 31 January 2022 since the beginning of the pandemic and stated that “the majority of deaths had an underlying cause of death of COVID-19 (2,556)”. The average annual number of deaths due to influenza and pneumonia between 2015 and 2019 were 2,908. This shows that covid does not pose a serious public health risk, leaving no justifiable reason to extend the mandate.

IMPACTS ON THE COMMUNITY

To provide informed consent for a medical practice is a basic human right and to be coerced into unwillingly accepting a vaccine is unlawful (threatening someone’s employment is coercion as they must ‘choose’ between an unwanted medical procedure and providing for their family). Furthermore, the exclusion of unvaccinated people from society is discrimination.

PERSONAL IMPACTS

As a high school science teacher and expectant mother, the vaccine mandate has impacted my ability to work and provide for my household, receive support throughout my pregnancy and adequately prepare for the birth of my child.

Having recently experienced a miscarriage, I will not be accepting the experimental vaccine whilst pregnant or breastfeeding as to not risk the health of my baby. This means I had to start maternity leave 6 weeks earlier than intended, resulting in a loss of 9 weeks income, and may not be able to return to work as soon as I had originally planned.

Due to COVID restrictions, antenatal classes have been suspended at my local hospital. I have been stopped at the hospital entrance and almost refused access to an urgently requested ultrasound appointment which my husband was not allowed to attend due to his vaccination status. Hospital visiting restrictions mean my husband will be asked to leave immediately after the birth of our child, regardless of my condition or our baby’s condition.

The mandate and restrictions have caused a divide between myself and my coworkers, immediate family members and friends which has left me feeling isolated.

These financial stresses and lack of support throughout my pregnancy have impacted my mental health and will continue to impact our family until the restrictions and mandates are lifted.

FINAL REQUEST

I believe the current human rights guidelines support my request that mandates are ended as people should not be coerced into participating in a medical procedure by restricting their ability to freely participate in society and financially support their families.

Kind regards,

Ashlee Richards

