

4 March 2022

Committee Secretary
Community Support and Services Committee
Email: cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

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

I am writing to formally advise that I DO NOT support an extension of the State of Emergency in Queensland.

Reasons for my position on the matter:

- **1% DEATH REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE TO COVID-19¹**
In accordance with the ABS data, since the pandemic commenced there have been 2639 deaths in Australia where people died with or from COVID-19. This is approximately 1% of the 273901 deaths registrations received by the ABS.
- **UNEMPLOYMENT DUE TO VACCINE MANDATES**
If Queensland was truly in a State of Emergency, the Queensland Government would not be removing critical and experienced health care workers who were fit and willing to work, particularly with Rapid Antigen Testing available. Thousands of teachers were also stood down when schools were declared a high-risk setting. Overwhelming data throughout the world confirms children have an incredibly low risk of suffering severe health due to COVID-19. Currently, the only crisis in schools is the impact of staff shortages.
- **LACK OF CHO TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY UNDE THE CURRENT COVID-19 EMERGENCY PROVISIONS**
There is a lack of transparency and judicial oversight for decisions made by the CHO. This epitomises the lack of integrity and accountability of the current Government, who is currently the subject of a current corruption inquiry. The CHO should be bound by scientific evidence, should publish the scientific evidence promptly and be held legally accountable for decisions made. This will ensure the CHO is bound to make decisions that look after the broader community and not to appease political or commercial interests.

With the outbreak of the Omicron variant in December 2021, the high vaccination rates, wearing of masks and segregation of unvaccinated citizens DID NOT stop the spread of COVID-19. Omicron has reduced the effectiveness of vaccines, with the Pfizer CEO on the January 2022 stating that two doses of the vaccine “offer very limited protection if any”²

¹ <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/covid-19-mortality-australia>

² <https://www.news.com.au/technology/science/human-body/pfizer-boss-says-two-doses-provides-limited-protection-if-any-against-omicron/news-story/9d76126d080e2010f05eb0b4ae5e0c45>

against the Omicron variant. Given the low efficacy of the vaccines and low death rates observed from Omicron during the recent outbreak, continuing the State of Emergency is unnecessary and has limited scientific justification. Addressing the fragile mental health of the Queensland population caused by lockdowns, financial distress and segregation must now become the priority.



Emily Kernke

