

**Re: Public Health and other legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) amendment Bill 2022**

Dear Committee,

I strongly object to any extension, of the expiring emergency powers, for the Queensland government. This Bill not only seeks to extend emergency powers but increase their scope, at a time when the Qld Government, itself, has said that Queenslanders have come through the 'wave' to the downside of the COVID-19 virus variant. For the Queensland Government to now seek to continue to use emergency powers, after 2 years of, highly debateable, measures to 'keep us safe', with clear indications from some parliamentary ministers, including the shadow leader, that this government is so corrupt that they have called for a "Fitzgerald Inquiry 2.0", into the corruption, is untenable.

However, my sensible objections to this Bill are based on the following.

**Health directions linked to vaccination status**

My objections:

- The government has and continues to seek to discriminate and segregate Queenslanders based on medical status.
- These powers have meant that unless a person proves, to a business and/or their employer, they will have no right of entry and/or employment, in that place.
- To date, the Qld government has provided no evidence that this measure can, and does, stop the spread of COVID-19.
- The termination and/or suspension of hospital, and aged care, staff has compromised the health and wellbeing of staff and patients, therefore creating an oxymoronic situation that the government has not been able to cater to or for.
- The termination and/or suspension of school staff has led to increases in staff shortages, in an industry already struggling to attract, and keep, teachers, that has, and will, continue to compromise student education standards. There has not been any provision made, to alleviate this situation.
- The same people who have been stopped from sitting in a café/restaurant can enter that place to order takeaway and thus be around the same people that the order seeks to separate them from, thus making it clear the order is about control and not health.
- The same people who have been terminated or suspended from their employment, can mix freely with others involved, in that employment, in other situations and places such as private homes, supermarkets and any other place not required to deny entry to 'unvaccinated' Queenslanders, thus making it clear, the order is about control and not health, as there can be no scientific, or medical, basis to support the order.
- Limiting people's right to work, in a place of their choosing, and punishing people for not taking part in a medical procedure, is in contradiction to the Australian Bill of Rights, that gives Australians a 'guarantee of rights and freedoms'.

## Supporting COVID-19 data provided by the Queensland Government in regards to this Bill.

### My concerns

- The data used in support of this Bill are as follows:  
4732 Covid-19 deaths in Australia  
399 deaths with Covid-19 in Queensland residents  
This data is incorrect, or at best, misleading. It clearly seeks to inflate the situation and gives no explanation as to how these deaths were collated or proof of their accuracy. Even so, if the government was not choosing to seek continuation of emergency powers they could have framed the situation positively and stated, more realistically, 'we have no need to continue with emergency powers as in 2 years we have only had a **death rate of 0.18%** and, as unfortunate as it is, the median age of death was 86 years of age, according to the *ABS*."
- *Australian Bureau of Statistics* data gives a different figure for deaths from COVID-19 in Australia. Its figure of 2556 is less than half of what is given in support of this Bill. The *ABS* explains this data more succinctly and states that **91.4%** of deaths have 'other conditions' mentioned on the death certificate. Only **8.6%** of deaths are listed COVID-19 alone on the death certificate, or **220** deaths.
- **Queensland deaths made up 263** of the overall number. This is **0.005%** of Queenslanders.
- While it is very unfortunate that we lose loved ones, and have lost Australians to COVID-19, deaths from this virus are ranked **38<sup>th</sup> on the cause of death ABS list**. These numbers are NOT sufficient enough to justify extending emergency powers and adversely impacting millions of Queenslanders.

## Use of emergency powers to continue to with 'mandates' for workers

### My objections:

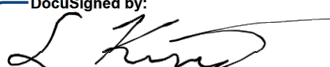
- The Queensland government have caused the termination of employment for thousands of teachers, nurses, school and hospital staff, hospitality and retail workers, police and other emergency workers and valuable volunteers in all of these sectors.
- These workers are losing their livelihoods, careers, and ability to pay everyday expenses.
- The Queensland government has told them that they have a 'choice' while, unlawfully, coercing and punishing them, for not taking part in a medical procedure. The tenets of which are clearly stated in Australian human rights Acts including the Bill of Rights.
- The mental, and therefore physical health, of these workers can not help but be adversely affected.
- There is nothing in the proposed Bill that protects these workers from further discrimination and attack, by the Queensland Government.
- There is no proof, scientific or otherwise, that shows that terminating these workers will support the health of all, or any Queenslanders.
- These workers mix freely with society, for many other purposes, and therefore are not absent from passing on or contracting COVID-19.
- It is now very evident that vaccination status does not protect people from contracting or passing on the virus and illness is not linked to whether or not a person is at work. A continuation of mandating workers is destructive to the Queensland economy.

- Australian entities, such as the SES, and other groups that rely heavily on volunteer contributions, are unable to function to full capacity, and therefore the delivery of services that underpin health, and in the SES example, life itself, are impacted.
- The Queensland government has made allowances for unvaccinated people to return to work to cover staff shortages, thus voiding the purpose of mandating in the first instance and giving further weight to the argument that a continuation of emergency powers is to maintain and increase control over Queenslanders.

### **Vagueness of proposals in the Bill**

#### **My concerns**

- It gives no guarantees or protections.
- It does not detail how the Queensland Government will 'encourage compliance with quarantine requirements.'
- It allows for untenable measures to continue, that walk a fine line between lawfulness and unlawfulness.
- It will allow the Queensland Government to hold people in quarantine centres, against their will and at their expense – a flagrant breach of the Australian Bill of Rights.

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