

Mrs Dawn Schelberg

3rd March 2022

To: Committee Secretary
cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au
Community Support and Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

RE: Submission to the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022

To be very clear **I wish to oppose** the proposed Bill and request that there be no extension of powers beyond 30th April 2022.

My interest in this Bill is in relation to imposed government mandates and the exclusion from society for myself and anyone in the broader public based on individual prochoice as well as informed health advice.

I do not believe that there is grounds to support further extensions of these powers if the purpose of the Bill is to:

- further extend the operation of essential public health measures implemented to facilitate Queensland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- extend amendments to the *Corrective Services Act 2006*, *Disaster Management Act 2003* and *Mental Health Act 2016* to support the public health response.

The extended provisions follow previous temporary extensions effected by a series of Acts of Parliament in 2020 and 2021, under which the majority of measures are due to expire on 30 April 2022. The Bill would extend this legislative expiry date for certain Acts to 31 October 2022, or the day the Minister for Health ends the declared public health emergency, whichever day is earlier. (Reference - Queensland Parliament Inquiries page).

Reasons I do not support the Bill include but are not limited to the following:

- **I do not agree with the term "pandemic"** in reference to current Omicron BA.1 and BA.2 variants of Covid-19. These variants are little more than a common cold and whilst people with serious underlying health issues may be more at risk of serious complications from these variants the broader public are not. (1st reference - the World Health Organization 13th May 2021 publication calling Covid-19 a "pandemic" when the Delta strain was globally problematic, has not been updated to reflect the milder variants other than to mention that these new strains need to be monitored closely. 2nd reference – the RACGP published an article 2nd February 2022 article "What does the Omicron sub variant mean for Australia's pandemic response" citing the BA.2 to be 'stealthier' than the BA.1 and harder to detect raising questions over the severity of the BA.2 variant and the efficacy of current vaccines.)

- I feel it is an **over reach of the State Government** and of **great concern that extreme powers** be given to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services - Leader of the House or the Chief Health Officer enabling them to impose mandates or to limit/restrict movements of the broader public for what is essentially a “common cold” from which over 99% of people generally recover with little to no long term side effects from contracting these variants of Covid 19.

My first concern is **the abuse of extreme power mandating vaccines** that are still being classified as “provisionally approved” by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. (1st reference - 2nd March 2022 article “AGATI recommends Novavax for use as a Covid-19 booster (The Hon Greg Hunt MP Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care) on the Federal Department of Health website. Second paragraph “Novavax is the first protein-based vaccine to be provisionally approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)” (2nd reference – National Nine News – Therapeutic Goods Administration approves Astra Zeneca for booster shots citing in the first paragraph ‘Australia’s TGA has provisionally approved’ the booster dose of the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine.”

- What are the outcomes for people who are dosed with provisionally approved vaccines with no guarantees of safety or efficacy? If the vaccine that is administered causes serious harm or death who is liable? (**My answer in reference** – The Sydney Morning Herald published an article 16th November 2021 titled “More than 10,000 Australians have filed coronavirus vaccine injury claims” with the very first paragraph stating that ‘it’s taxpayers’ under the federal government’s no-fault indemnity scheme with Services Australia to launch in December 2021 an online portal for uncapped claims above \$5000 for injury or loss of income due to vaccine injuries. As a tax payer in this state and country I object to my tax dollars being used to fund government schemes such as these for injuries incurred by provisionally approved trial vaccines.
- My second concern around **the abuse of extreme power mandating vaccines on Education employees**. Queensland Education United conducted a survey of their members aimed at school and early childcare educators including Principals, Teachers, Teacher’s Aides, cleaners and Heads of Departments. Of the 2401 respondents 82% have not had the Covid-19 vaccination, 69% said they will not be receiving a Covid-19 vaccination, 65% of members surveyed were employed by the Department of Education, 80% of the respondents who work at predominantly Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander schools believe that the students are being disadvantaged as a result of the mandates, 68% of the respondents believe their school is not coping with staff shortages, 68% of people with an exemption are **NOT** allowed to work and the sad reality of it all that since these mandates were installed, 33% have had no support from the Principal or Line Manager and 13% have experienced somewhat rude, openly judgemental, intolerant, condescending or discriminatory behaviour displayed to them. These mandates are causing division and discrimination.
- I believe the legislation **should not include** “the Chief Health Officer to give a notice to businesses or facilities making recommendations to open, close or limit access to the business or facility;” (reference statement of compatibility by Yvette D’Ath MP, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and Leader of the House page 4). Businesses have suffered enough! Being forced to close, reduce hours, terminate unvaccinated workers and navigate the never ending myriad of changing rules and restrictions has put an undue amount of stress particularly on small businesses. **As long as good social distancing and hygiene**

measures are in place businesses should remain open and be able to trade freely to the vaccinated or unvaccinated reducing the financial and mental health impact on the owners and their staff.

(reference – article published by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland ‘**CCIQ’ 8th February 2022** titled “**90% vax target hit: Emotional and financial business health dependent on mandate review**” citing that “mental health challenges due to COVID impacts have affected close to 63% of Queensland business owners and their staff up from 45% in July 2021, new CCIQ data shows”. CCIQ Policy and Advocacy General Manager Amanda Rohan stated that ‘now is the time for Queensland to get back to business and for mandates on hospitality and entertainment businesses to be reviewed and removed.’ In November 2021 businesses were informed of new mandates which would impact them when the state borders reopened but at the same time were promised that when Queensland vaccination rates had hit the 90% target rate rules around the mandates would be reviewed.

I find the following to be questionable:

A temporary measure to be further extended included with these powers:

- amendments to the *Public Health Act 2005* to increase powers for emergency officers and the Chief Health Officer to limit, or respond to, the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland, support testing and quarantine requirements and authorise other public health measures;

My reason for questioning this – since the state and national borders have opened to interstate and international travellers how many people have been required to quarantine and will the unvaccinated be forced into quarantine facilities against their will under these powers?

I thank you for listening to my submission and look forward to hearing a response from the committee on the outcomes of this matter.

Kind regards,

DMSchelberg

Mrs Dawn Schelberg.