

Submission to the PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2022

March 3, 2022

To the Committee,

I am writing to you as a concerned mother of three children and wife of a teacher who is no longer able to work due to the vaccine mandates. These mandates can end in April 2022, and you have the power to do so. I will explain why I believe these mandates and emergency powers are no longer needed in Queensland.

- Total Covid-19 deaths in Australia are 2,639 out of 273,901 total deaths in Australia in 2020-2022.
- The 80% and 90% vaccination targets of Queensland have been reached.
- Pfizer is only 12% effective in fighting Omicron in children aged 5-11 years.
- High shortage of teachers and education staff in Queensland.
- Mental health has greatly decreased in all of Australia.

For the vast majority of Australians, the risk of serious illness or death from Covid-19 is in fact very, very low. The recent release of data by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provides great insight into the actual dangers of Covid-19 to Australians. The data illuminates the fact that for the elderly with other underlying health conditions, Covid-19 poses a higher level of risk. So far, 2,639 people have died *'with'* Covid-19 (not necessarily *from* Covid-19) in Australia. Each of these 2,639 deaths come with a name and a story, and is a precious life lost. However, it must be said that the roughly 3000 deaths seems almost **insignificant** when compared to the total 273,901 other people who have died due to many other illnesses and tragedies in Australia. We are told in Queensland that we have passed the peak of the mild omicron variant. For nearly two years the country has been in a rollercoaster of lockdowns, mandates and public health orders. It is time for the Government to make decisions based on the data. The data shows there is no significant reason or need to extend the emergency government powers and governments should focus their efforts on supporting everyday Australians in the restoration of the Australian society and economy.

Queensland has reached its **vaccination targets** that were set out many months ago, so mandates should have also been dropped months ago. We were promised an end to mask mandates when over 80% of Queenslanders had been vaccinated. Yet within 1 month of that target being reached, we were back to wearing masks. These targets are seemingly being treated like monthly business targets by the Government. In actuality, we are tragically dealing with the coercion and **manipulation** of Australian people, with hard working people and children in schools being victims of political games and inequality, something which all our legislation is meant to protect us from. The government has facilitated the ability of the public to receive a Covid-19 vaccine – that is where the responsibility of the government should end. There has now been more than sufficient time for the public to receive the vaccine. Let's move on from these unnecessary mandates.

The main Covid-19 variant circulating around Australia seems to have **mild symptoms**, yet shockingly,

vaccine company Pfizer has released data showing their vaccine is only 12% effective against omicron in children 5-11 years old. Why is the government recommending and mandating vaccines that in actual fact

provide virtually no protection against Covid-19? Would you take a medicine that was only 12% effective?

A very mild illness with mild symptoms is better combated by good health and by allowing the body to build natural antibodies to combat the illness.

There is a huge shortage of teachers around Australia, including Queensland. Astonishingly, Minister Grace announced in a press conference that she was not aware of any staff shortages in Education. Is this simply a gross negligence of the condition of Queensland schools or just blatant lies to cover the actual impact of her governmental decisions? Statistics clearly show there were already teacher shortages before the vaccine mandate. A recent survey of Queensland educators and staff by Queensland Education United (QEU) exposed that over 1900 teaching staff are no longer allowed to work at their school across Queensland. Those 1900 have not been easily replaced and the loss of these hardworking people is already being noticed by many in the schools throughout the state. The extension of these emergency powers and mandates will have a flow on effect that will see even more teachers leaving the profession, due to increased pressures, workload and lack of support for education staff.

There is an entire wave of very harmful side effects which have been brought on by the government implemented vaccine mandates. **These include a decline in general mental health, increased suicides, cancelled medical procedures, significant disruptions to child development and more. A wide range of Australians have all have been negatively affected.** These are not problems that are easily fixed. The cancers that could have been stopped earlier now have a late diagnosis. The children who have been learning to speak and read have significant delays due to their educators often wearing facemasks, which deprives them of the vital facial and visual cues children need for learning. The elderly in nursing homes haven't seen loved ones for weeks, sometimes months. How is the extension of these mandates going to improve the health of Queenslanders?

It is time for Australia to get back to pre-Covid ways. There is no Covid-19 emergency in Australia. There are many healthy, unvaccinated workers in very important industries such as medical, police & education departments who can't go to work. The masks don't prevent the spread and neither do the vaccines. Let's actively prepare for the future by investing in a healthier, more active society. Let's get everyone back to work and treat all Australians with dignity and respect. Extending these emergency bills will ruin Australia's economy and its people.

Please don't take this decision lightly. End the State of Emergency in Queensland!

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Deborah Canavan

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