

Thursday 3 March 2022

Attention: Community Support and Services Committee

cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Re: Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022

I am writing to the Committee to wish to formally advise that I do not support the Bill nor the extension of the state of emergency due to the following reasons:

1. Several countries including the UK and Ireland, have taken steps to lift restrictions placed on their residents, announcing that they will learn to “live with Covid” and that individuals are responsible for their own health. It is indefensible for the Government to continue as though COVID-19 is a pandemic when it is not. Government overreach should not be allowed any longer.
2. The Omicron variant has proven to be not as serious as the Delta variant with most people experiencing only mild flu like symptoms, treatable at home with paracetamol. Our Chief Health Officer, Dr John Gerrard, stated that most people will be able to recover at home. The virus is also not discriminating against the unvaccinated, as threatened by the Premier on more than one occasion. Both the vaccinated and unvaccinated have caught the virus with similar symptoms. Therefore, it cannot be classed as an emergency needing the emergency powers the extension of this Bill is requesting.
3. The current vaccination rate for Queensland residents 16 years and over is 90.93%. With high levels of vaccination in Queensland, there is no justification for the emergency powers to be extended. The public have responded to the request (or coercion) of the government and the required 80% for herd immunity has been reached.
4. The ABS published [data](#) showing that since the pandemic started, 92% of people who died with COVID had 3 serious underlying conditions and that COVID deaths represent less than one percent of the total of deaths in Australia over the past 22 months. Furthermore, the median age of COVID related deaths was 81 years for men and 86 years for women. Although any deaths are sad, this is hardly a disease that threatens the whole Australian population. The recovery rate of people with COVID in Australia using Worldometer data is 93% and that includes all deaths recorded as COVID deaths, which we know by now, is not accurately recorded data. Again, this pandemic cannot be classed as an emergency needing the emergency powers the extension of this Bill is requesting.
5. The extended powers this Bill is proposing is a gross overreach of government and needs to be rejected. Since the pandemic started, Queenslanders have seen their economy smashed, small businesses decimated, hundreds of thousands of jobs lost and people’s lives turned upside down. All for an emergency that is not there anymore. Furthermore, freedom of conscience, bodily autonomy, free speech, the right to peaceful assembly, the right to work, and government transparency has been tarnished, all for a public health emergency. COVID-19 is no longer the danger to our health that requires emergency powers.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

Annerie Kruger

[Redacted signature block]