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3 March 2022

Committee Secretary

Community Support and Services Committee

Parliament House

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Dear Committee Secretary,

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

Queensland first introduced a State of Emergency on 29 January 2020, in response to concerns of a novel infectious disease that had been reported in China earlier that month. At that time very little was known of this novel disease, however modelling was released by Imperial College London that predicted large scale loss of life. In Australia we were informed that we would face potentially 150,000 deaths by June 2020.

Given these dire warnings, it seemed that granting Emergency Powers to Government was the right thing to do. However the facts belie that this situation has not occurred, as the Table below, current 22 Jan 2022 attests. Further to this is that the TGA has admitted that only 8.6% of recorded Covid deaths were related solely to Covid. Similar results were provided under a Freedom of Information(or whatever they call it) in the UK, where some of some 137,000 reported deaths, only 17,000 were proven to be caused solely by Covid. In the UK, once that information had been released into the public domain, all restrictions and mandates were rescinded.

Australian mortality Covid 19 22 Jan 2022

Age	Cases (Total)	Deaths (Total)	Death Rate per cases (%)	Death by Age Group (%)	Case by Age Group (%)
0-9	149,924	4	0.0%	0.1%	9.3%
10-19	208,344	2	0.0%	0.1%	13.0%
20-29	412,125	13	0.0%	0.4%	25.7%
30-39	293,261	38	0.0%	1.1%	18.3%
40-49	203,962	63	0.0%	1.9%	12.7%
50-59	161,580	173	0.1%	5.1%	10.1%
60-69	99,521	326	0.3%	9.7%	6.2%
70-79	48,872	725	1.5%	21.6%	3.0%
80-89	21,373	1,220	5.7%	36.3%	1.3%
90+	6,732	799	11.9%	23.8%	0.4%
	1,605,694	3,363	0.21%	100.0%	100.0%
2022	1,259,184	1,139	0.09%		
2021	318,129	1,315	0.41%		
2020	28,381	909	3.20%		
2019	Mortality Rate		0.68%		
Average Age of Death			80		
Average Age of Cases			34		

There is nothing in these statistics, or in a number of others that support the view, mentioned a number of times in the Bill, that we are "dealing with a rapidly moving Pandemic", requiring a "need to respond swiftly".

In 2020 Australia recorded more deaths from each of Influenza and Pneumonia than from Covid, by a factor of almost 2 times. On a table of causes of death, Covid rated below falls off ladders and such.

The use and continuing extensions of these Emergency Powers has many and wide ranging negative impacts on the population of Queensland.

 Any business in or in part reliant on the Entertainment and Hospitality field has been severely damaged. Many good people have lost jobs as a result of their responsible personal health choices, resulting in understaffing issues in a number of areas, some of which fall under a definition of essential services. Healthy people are denied access to a wide range of services, because of their responsible personal health choices, at various times restrictions on free movement of free citizens have been enacted.

People have been under undue and unneeded stress for much of the past 25 months. There have been too many occasions of loved ones not being able comfort dying friends and family, or to honour them properly at a funeral.

Too many social occasions, essential to a healthy and functioning community, have been cancelled, restricted to the point of being useless or postponed.

An electronic monitoring system of the population was introduced, which is still in force, even though it was proven ineffective once more than a few "cases" were detected.

All of this has occurred without oversight of the Parliament, a body elected to represent the various views of it's constituents.

In documents supporting the Bill is this statement

'The pandemic continues to be unpredictable, and factors such as the emergence of new variants means that the need for restrictions to be put in place at short notice may remain for some time. Having the ability to respond at short notice to an evolving epidemiological situation will continue to ensure public health objectives are met while also balancing the social and economic needs of the community. It is critical that flexibility is retained to ensure that, as restrictions are eased and normal social and economic activity resumes, appropriate public health measures can continue to be put in place where necessary to address ongoing public health risks and support the health system '

I would contend that after two years we are not dealing with a Pandemic, we are dealing with an Endemic disease which has proven far less dangerous than originally believed, and far less dangerous than the "modelling" used to justify the continuation on several occasions of the Emergency Powers.

I contend that continuing the Emergency Powers is an abuse of process which hands the Chief Health Officer, the Governor in Council, the Police and anyone considered an officer by the Powers, unfettered control over free citizens far in excess of what is required . It has the effect of negatively if not totally removing from individuals their right to human dignity, equality and freedom, all of which are what make us citizens of a free and democratic society.

As was seen in January 2020, under existing Emergency Powers, the government has the ability to "respond swiftly " to situations requiring it to do so. Given that the current situation could never be described as a "clear and present danger", there is no basis to support an extension of the expiration date. Indeed there have been several expiration dates which have not expired. Also there should be no "Transitional Regulation" to extend the Powers for up to 2 years after the expiration date.

In summary I would state that I do not support the extension of the Expiring Provisions . I believe that governance of the State of Queensland be returned to the Parliament, that Natural Justice be restored, and that freedoms and liberties of all Queenslanders be restored forthwith.

Yours faithfully

Paul Williams