

From: [Rachel McInnes](#)
To: [Community Support and Services Committee](#)
Subject: Submission re. Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022
Date: Friday, 4 March 2022 11:39:36 AM

To the Committee Secretary, Community Support and Services Committee

I wish to make a submission regarding the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022.

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Position

The purpose of this email is to state the position that I DO NOT support the extension to the above mentioned Bill until 31st of October.

The information below provides ample evidence that the response to the COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionate to the actual threat of the disease. Not included below are the costs that are more difficult to calculate such as the impacts on children's mental health, suicide rates, family violence, alcohol and drug use, bankruptcy, feelings of hopelessness and broader economic impacts.

Segregation and marginalisation of people in our society for their sexual preferences or religious beliefs is unacceptable, yet we are marginalising people for their vaccination status. If the same mandate restrictions were applied to the LGBTIQ community there would be outrage. If the same mandates were applied to a single religious group there would be community outrage. The double standard for applying a mandate to a group of people who do not wish to be vaccinated, particularly when the data below shows that vaccinations are not stopping the spread of the disease, is unthinkable and an overreach of Government power which in any other circumstance would be shameful.

I urge you to consider the information below as reasons to END the Extension of Expiring Provisions for our Queensland Government. They are clearly no longer required.

COVID has been far less deadly than first predicted

All death is tragic, however when examining the data in Australia we find that COVID-19 has not contributed very much to the death rate across Australia, therefore the current restrictions, particularly vaccination mandates, are not necessary. I cite the recent data released by the Australia Bureau of Statistics which identified:

- 2,639 deaths where people died with or from COVID-19 that occurred by 31 January 2022. 91.4% of those who died "have other conditions listed on the death

certificate". 69.5% (2,336) of those deaths also reported pre-existing chronic conditions on the death certificate. Therefore, COVID-19 was a factor contributing to these deaths rather than the sole cause.

- In this same time period a total of 273,902 Australians died. This equates to less than 1% of Australian deaths relating to COVID-19 infection. Clearly the risk of death related to COVID-19 infection is far less than originally predicted.
- To compare COVID-19 to major causes of death in Australia during the same time period we find that COVID related deaths are minimal:
 - Cancer - 100,000
 - Heart Disease - 32,000
 - Alzheimer's and dementia - 30,000
 - Diabetes - 10,000
- The Median Age of COVID deaths was 81 years for men and 86 years for women. These are both above our national average lifespan. This highlights a potential need for health measures in the aging demographics of our population, not blanket mandates and restrictions applied across the entire population.
- In Queensland, as of Friday, 4th March, there have been a total of 582,696 COVID-19 cases. The hospitalisation and death data reveals that the threat of COVID-19 to the health of our population is far less than first thought. The numbers of those who have been so unwell they have been admitted to hospital is miniscule. This data does not support the claim for Emergency Provisions still being required. See data below to support this statement.
 - Total Cases - 582,696
 - Hospitalised - 315 (0.05%)
 - ICU - 26 (0.005%)
 - Deaths - 570 (0.1%)
- Sources:
 - <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/covid-19-mortality-australia#key-statistics>
 - <https://covidlive.com.au/qld>

Vaccination Status has had no influence over transmission

- On the 14th December, 2021 Queensland reopened its borders interstate travel for the vaccinated alone. Unvaccinated citizens were not permitted to cross the border at this point.
- Vaccination status had no influence over the recent spread in Queensland.
 - At the beginning of 2022 only Vaccinated citizens were permitted to cross the border and yet COVID was transmitted throughout our community.
 - Daily new cases in the community increased quickly into the thousands. A community which at that time had a vaccination status of 83.6%.
 - Vaccinated people carried COVID into the highly vaccinated state of Queensland and COVID-19 spread quickly. Vaccination did not prevent this spread from occurring,
- It is clear that vaccination status is not preventing infections rendering mandates ineffective and unnecessary.
 - The population of Queensland is upward of 5,000,000 (<https://www.australian-population.com/states/queensland-population/>).
 - With 582,696 cases thus far, this equates to approximately 11.66% of the population experiencing a COVID-19 infection.
 - A high percentage of our Queensland population, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, have experienced a COVID-19 infection.

Vaccination mandates are causing segregation and marginalisation in our community and financial hardship in families. This is both unAustralian and violates basic human rights

- Individuals in the hospitality, health, education, law enforcement and social service industries have been prevented from pursuing employment in their industries of choice. This action has clearly not prevented the spread and infection of COVID-19 in the Queensland community and is a clear a violation of these individuals human rights.
- Anecdotally:
 - parents have been isolated from volunteering in their child's school
 - families have lost income as they search for new jobs (often paying far less)
 - Self-worth and self-esteem has been severely impacted from the exclusion and marginalisation
 - Unable to officially volunteer to help clean up from the current floods due to vaccination status.
- This systemic discrimination must stop.

Please carefully consider the information above, these points alone should be ample evidence that the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022 is not needed for a healthy and recovering Queensland community.

Kind Regards,

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