

From: [Lou Thompson](#)
To: [Community Support and Services Committee](#)
Subject: Emergency Bill
Date: Friday, 4 March 2022 11:42:00 AM

Dear Committee

Please accept my submission for consideration regarding the extension of the Emergency Bill. Given the continuing mutation of the virus from the original Wuhan strain to Delta and now the far less pathogenic Omicron variant I strongly object to ANY extension of the Emergency Bill.

The ongoing mandates are continuing to have a negative effect on Queenslanders. There has been unacceptable pressure on small business, particularly in the tourism and hospitality sector, many employers have been left short staffed and there have been supply problems directly relatable to the mandates.

Families and individuals have been placed under unprecedented amounts of pressure with many suffering financial stress and hardship through lost jobs. The vaccine mandates have seen an increase in the prescription of antidepressant drugs, there has been an increase in family and domestic violence. Many are suffering due to the suspension of elective surgeries, and the lack of diagnostic services for medical conditions that are not Covid-19 related.

The Government's own modelling states that the peak has now passed, many Queenslanders have now recovered from Covid-19 and now have an effective and lasting natural immunity. With this in mind any extension of the Emergency Bill would be extremely detrimental to Queenslanders, Queensland Businesses, the State economy and the future recovery of Queensland.

To allow the extension of the emergency powers would leave in place a system of continued medical discrimination which totally UNACCEPTABLE in any democratic society.

The Committee needs to understand that there was never going to be a one size fits all solution to the Covid-19 problem. Not every individual is able to receive the vaccine due to medical contraindications, many of these individuals have been unable to secure a medical exemption from their doctor due to the restraints put on doctors for the issuing of exemptions. They have had to choose between their health and financial hardship as jobs have been lost due to vaccination status.

The Omicron variant presents in most people with only mild cold and flu symptoms and should be managed as an endemic annual flu. The original Emergency Bill was put in place based on the fatality rates from the Alpha and Delta variants, both of these variants have now been out-competed by the more contagious but far less dangerous Omicron.

The case numbers predicted by the original modelling were substantially overinflated and current health data is now showing that the number of Covid deaths and infections is far below what was originally estimated. The Emergency Bill was put in place based on the original estimations and the extension and continuation of this Bill if NOT WARRANTED and should NOT be granted.

THE COMMITTEE NEEDS TO LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE.

So many people have suffered and continue to suffer because of these powers.

The pandemic has become endemic, there is no covid emergency anymore, the dangerous period has now passed and people need to get on with their lives. The people need to return to work, pay their bills and feed their families.

Please put a stop to the political power grab and the continuing discrimination which causes so much suffering and hardship. It has to end now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anna Thompson

