

Dear Committee,

I strongly object to any Extension of the Emergency Bill due to the prevalence of Omicron's extremely low death rate compared to the delta/alpha variants.

The original Emergency Bill was granted based on a death rate from the Alpha and Delta variants. The extension of powers is based on COVID deaths in Queensland and COVID numbers.

The statistics from deaths of influenza and COVID-19 over a two year period show the comparisons and severity of each. In 2018 and 2019 Queensland Health reported the flu was contracted by 125, 766 people with 520 deaths. Compared to Queensland's recorded COVID-19 cases over 2 years of 572K cases and deaths 564 it shows the FLU is more deadly. And the number of deaths of COVID-19 is substantially less as reports of deaths being documented as COVID-19 are now said to have occurred due to underlying conditions (from latest reports from Australian Bureau of Statistics).

Current estimates indicate that Omicron deaths are only a very small fraction of those adjusted numbers. Any extension is not warranted and should NOT be granted.

In the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022 (the Bill) explanatory notes it states the Government are working towards living with COVID-19 by easing restrictions and moving away from a suppression approach. This to me would be to live with COVID-19 as a FLU, and take measures as we do during our FLU session. The usual FLU session measures are not going to work when showing FLU symptoms, good personal hygiene such as coughing/sneezing into your elbow and washing your hands. A flu shot is available to those people who choose to have it.

The restrictions that the Government had in place during the COVID-19 Omricon variant pandemic clearly shows had no effect on the spread and

contraction of COVID-19. The spread occurred even with the restrictions of only vaccinated people working and attending hospitality and health venues with workers who were fully vaccinated contracting COVID-19. This in turn placed a strain on the health system as many of it's workers were off work due to isolation of having COVID-19 or were a close contact. The transportation of food supplies were also affected when a substantial number of vaccinated drivers of trucks were infected and unable to work.

The potential for continued discrimination via these emergency powers is unacceptable to any democratic society. The Government continuing to place segregation onto community members with vaccinated only allowed in certain venues even after the double vaccination rate is over 90%. People's morals and beliefs are being squashed as the comply to restrictions and mandates, which unfortunately is leading to mental health issues.

The negatives of these mandates and the pressure it is placing on Queenslanders through lost jobs (prevailing homelessness and suicides) and a pressured healthcare system, far outweigh the negatives going forward. Particularly when it seems that many Queenslanders have had COVID-19, now have natural immunity, and according to the Government's own modelling the peak has now passed.



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