

4 March 2022

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

I am writing this submission **in opposition** of the proposed Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022 as these 'emergency powers' are no longer necessary.

We have been well schooled in the importance of social distancing, good hand hygiene and staying home if unwell. We know to use a tissue and put it straight in the bin; sneeze into your elbow; ensure surfaces are clean; limit exposure to large group settings. The Bill references 'containing the spread'; with the spread of Omicron throughout the community that 'horse has bolted' so we are now 'Living with Covid-19'. We can implement the above measures without having this Bill extended.

These emergency powers will allow for government over-reach and unnecessary disruption in people's lives. The emergency is over, let's move on.

On a personal note, I have endured more worry and stress from government 'emergency powers' intervention than I ever had of a virus with an over 99% survival rate. These powers also gave rise to mandatory vaccination policies in industries that could ill afford to lose valuable staff with years of training and knowledge. We were trying to protect our hospitals from being over-stretched but then lose much needed staff to these mandates; this applies to the police and teachers also. Covid-19 Vaccines do not stop infection or transmission and have no mid to long term safety data so therefore should not be mandatory.

There is a feeling of division and discrimination in the community presently, orchestrated by the government's authorisation of 'other public health measures' (namely the Covid-19 vaccine rollout). My belief is this will lessen if this Bill is not passed and we are not exposed to further measures.

This Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022 allows the continuation of the fear narrative which needs to cease. We are now 'living with the virus'. Let's get on with it!

Megan Bradshaw

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