


Richard Knight



Committee Secretary
Community Support and Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Community Support and Services Committee,

I am writing regarding the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022.

These opinions are my own and in no way reflect the views of any organisation or individual I am associated with.

I do not support the bill mentioned above for the reasons below.

- The return to the normal democratic process should take high priority in any Australian government.
- Queensland is not experiencing extreme high cases of COVID-19 in the community.
- New cases are at approximately 25% of those experienced at the peak in mid-January 2022
- New cases have fallen significantly.
- Many scientists in the international community agree that natural immunity being built in the community is robust and provides a level of protection from potential future variants.
- Virologists agree that viruses tend to become more contagious but less dangerous with each mutation, supported by anecdotal evidence throughout the international community.
- Our hospital wards and ICUs are not overrun with COVID-19 patients
 - As of 3 March 2022, there are just 315 cases currently in hospital and only 26 of those in ICU
 - These patients are unwell WITH COVID-19, not necessarily BECAUSE OF COVID-19.
- There appears to be no requirement to “Provide increased powers for emergency officers and the Chief Health Officer” beyond those already granted.
 - What more powers could possibly be required?
- Ninety days is too long for extensions of the public health emergency.
 - The public health emergency should be ended as soon as practical for the sake of the Queensland people and our standard form of governance.
 - A 90 day extension period would mean less review and justification for such extensions.
 - A period of not more than 30 days would seem more appropriate.

In short, I do not support the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022 for the above reasons and more.

The people of Queensland deserve to have this public health emergency ended as soon as practical, so we can return to our everyday pre-pandemic lives without fear of constantly moving the goalposts.

The resumption of the normal democratic process should be the priority of any government in a country like ours. Australians generally have a good sense of personal responsibility and can be relied upon to make the correct decisions without government interference for themselves and the greater society.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Knight', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Richard Knight
Friday 4th March 2022