

Zofeya Grouhel

Queensland Parliamentary Community
And Services Committee

3rd March 2022

To the Parliamentary Committee Members

I am writing to the Committee Inquiry on the matter of the proposed extension to the Emergency Powers Bill 2022. I am asking for the bill to be abolished as I believe it is not only unnecessary but harmful for the wellbeing of thousands of Queenslanders.

Covid19 case numbers have been dropping steadily over the past few weeks and Omicron has proven to be mild for most people. There are so many examples of job mandates and restrictions being dropped around the world that the Queensland government needs to reconsider their tough position on Emergency Powers and the mandates which result from these.

When considering the need for Emergency Powers and mandates it is important to consider who is benefitting from them and who is potentially harmed. In my opinion, and many others' opinions, there is no evidence that the mandates are saving lives or reducing hospitalisations. What we have seen is a disease which is spread by vaccinated and unvaccinated alike therefore workplace mandates have done nothing to reduce human suffering but actually increased it by penalising people who have chosen not to be vaccinated.

New Zealand High Court Judge, Justice Cooke deemed mandates 'not demonstrably justifiable' for police and defence force and an infringement of the Bill of Rights. Experts say that Omicron is no more deadly than influenza and Australian Bureau of Statistics figures support this assertion. [REDACTED] Health Secretary for UK announced last month that vaccination mandates were no longer 'proportionate' for health staff in view of the milder Omicron variant and the high percentage of the population being vaccinated.

Thousands of Queenslanders have lost their jobs over their decision not to be vaccinated. There are many more people suffering from job loss and business loss than there are people who have died from Covid19 (and most of these people had serious, pre-existing conditions and/or were of advanced age). Australia has a much higher vaccination rate than the UK and yet we are still expected to abide by the unreasonable mandates. If the mandates are lifted, I am certain that the death rates, infection rates and hospitalisations will not rise but continue to drop as the disease becomes increasingly endemic.

Personally, I have lost a much loved job as a childcare assistant and soon I face losing my part-time job at my local supermarket. The job mandates not only deny people the right to work in the profession of their choosing but make it almost impossible to obtain any alternative employment. How is this to be considered a choice?

No democratic government would consider placing a mandate on workers which contravened their freedom of religion and yet it is considered right to mandate a vaccination which has a higher adverse reaction rate than any other vaccine approved for use and on which there is no long term safety data available.

People have suffered long enough, please act reasonably and restore the rights and wellbeing of thousands of workers and business owners in Queensland by removing the Emergency Powers Extension Bill and all the vaccination mandates pertaining to it.

Yours sincerely



Zofeya Grouhel