

Dear Committee,

I am writing regarding the extension of the Emergency Power bill. I strongly object to any extension of the Emergency Bill. The Emergency bill was originally granted based on the death rate of the Alpha and Delta variants. Omicron has extremely low death rates compared to the original variants. Current statistics from Queensland Health indicate that this original modeling is over inflated.

Queensland Health statistics indicate that only 577 lives have been lost since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. Although any loss of life is tragic, this is out of a reported 584,481 cases. This would indicate a mortality rate of 0.098%. (Data from [Queensland COVID-19 statistics | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#) as of the 4th March.) These statistics indicate that the original data on which the Emergency Powers Bill were granted were grossly overinflated. Therefore, any extension of Emergency Powers should not be granted as this would be a gross misuse of government power and resources.

The current use of the Emergency Power has placed extreme pressure on workforces which were already stretched. Mandates created using emergency powers resulted in significant job loss or displacement of jobs. Vaccine mandates have result in Queenslanders who are highly skilled and willing to work in a safe environment being denied their free and democratic right to bodily autonomy and work. The health system, which was already stretched, is now experiencing critical workplace shortages and burnout. This is due to the vaccine mandate imposed upon health care workers and the subsequent termination or standing down of those health care workers who chose to not give their consent to an experimental trial. The healthcare sector is not the only workforce affected by these mandates. Other sectors which have been negatively affected include education. The negative impact of these mandates and the pressure it its placing on Queenslanders through job loss and a pressured healthcare system, poses a greater risk than going forward without them. The previously mentioned statistics which would indicate that many Queenslanders have naturally acquired immunity to COVID -19 and according to government modeling, the peak has now passed.

I have personally been affected by the mandates which were created under the Emergency Powers Bill. Queensland Health introduced mandatory vaccination for healthcare workers in September last year, despite numerous opportunities to engage in consultation and consider alternative measures to protect staff and patients. This has resulted in me being stood down from my position as a Registered Midwife.

The discrimination caused by the emergency powers is unacceptable to any democratic society. Currently, under the Emergency Powers, Queenslanders must disclose their private medical information before entering many venues. This is discrimination, undemocratic and inappropriate given the current COVID related morbidity and mortality.

In summary, considering the issues outlined in this submission, I strongly object to any extension of the Emergency Powers Bill.

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