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Submission for Committee Inquiry: *Public Health and other Legislation (Extension of expiring provision) Amendment Bill 2022*

I do not support the QLD Labour Government's proposal to extend their emergency powers until October. **The COVID epidemic has passed the point of being an emergency**. The Qld health website acknowledges that most who suffer contract COVID will most likely experience mild symptoms. To quote their website: ***"it's important to remember that most people will have mild symptoms...These mild symptoms can and should be managed while isolating at home...Most people with COVID-19 will not get very sick and will experience mild symptoms such as a fever, cough, headaches, or a sore throat. You'll probably feel unwell for a day or two and then start to feel better."*** (<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/news-events/news/what-happens-diagnosed-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-queensland-confirmed-case-treatment-medication-isolation-quarantine-at-home-hospital>)

Again I restate, **if most people in our state will only experience mild symptoms, this can no longer be considered an emergency** that requires intervention from the government that is causing damage to our state.

I believe that the crisis now lies in our education, health system and small business sector due to current vaccine passports and mandates.

1. Vaccine passports: These have been very damaging to small businesses in particular in the hospitality industry. Many small businesses were already under serious financial pressure due to lock downs. Now they are forced to refuse customers who are not vaccinated. In the hospitality industry that also includes customers who are vaccinated, but not eating out anymore due to friends who are not vaccinated. Many businesses are on the verge of closing because they are unable to welcome all customers through their doors.
2. Vaccine mandates: These are causing unprecedented damage to Queenslanders personally (through lack of work and the ability to earn an income) and to our health and education system. I speak as a Queenslander who lives in a rural area. We already struggled to have adequate amounts of staff in our hospitals and schools. Now they are drastically understaffed. I am a teacher who knows of **many** schools in rural areas that are greatly understaffed to the point where student's welfare and education is at risk. Vaccine mandates need to be dropped so that rural areas can return to having better staffed hospitals, GP clinics and schools. **This lack of staff in these critical sectors is more of an emergency than the current COVID-19 situation.**

The Queensland Labour government should not be given an extension of their emergency powers. They admit themselves that COVID-19 is no longer a threat to most Queenslanders. What is an emergency is the lack of people able to work in our critical sectors such as health and education and the state of our small businesses who cannot survive if the current mandates remain in place.

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