

Thursday 3 March 2022

Attention: Community Support and Services Committee  
[cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Re: Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022

I am writing to the Committee to express my concerns over the extension of emergency powers to 31 October 2022 this Bill is proposing to grant to the Queensland Government.

I would like to state that I **do not support** this Bill. My reasons and evidence for this is as follows:

1. On the 15 February 2022 the **ABS** published data that showed over the 22 months of COVID to January 2022:
  - 273,901 Australians died. However, of these deaths only 2,639 people were COVID related with **92 percent of these having 3 serious underlying conditions**. To put this in perspective, around 100,000 people died of cancer; 32,000 of heart disease; 30,000 died of Alzheimer's and dementia; 10,000 died of diabetes.
  - COVID deaths represent less than one percent of the total of deaths in Australia over the past 22 months.
  - The median age of COVID related deaths was 81 years for men and 86 years for women.
  - **Over a 12 month period in 2019, there were 4,124 people who died of the flu.**
2. It is clear that the Omicron variant has not discriminated against the unvaccinated. It has been widely caught and spread by both vaccinated and unvaccinated people who have mostly only had slight cold and flu symptoms, treatable at home with paracetamol. This would therefore, not be classed as an emergency virus needing the emergency powers the extension of this Bill is seeking.
3. With high levels of vaccination within Queensland, **there is no justification** for the emergency powers to be extended to deal with COVID-19. The public have responded to the request of the government and we now have higher than the 80% vaccination rate required for herd immunity.
4. Governments around the world, namely the UK, are retracting all mandates for vaccination upon their citizens, stating the virus is now something they are living with and should be treated as a cold and flu where individuals take responsibility for their own care. It is time for Australia to follow suit and remove government control. It is unjustifiable to continue as though this virus is a pandemic, when it is clearly not.
5. Given the above evidence, the extended powers this Bill is proposing is a gross overreach of government and needs to be rejected. The people of Queensland need their rights returned to live without government mandates. Our aged care homes, schools, health care and hospitality sectors deserve the opportunity to get back to normal and Australians everywhere must have their rights to move freely returned to them. COVID-19 is no longer the danger to our health to the degree that requires emergency powers.

Thank you for your favourable consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely

Kylie Bridaman  
