

Thursday 3 March 2022

Attention: Community Support and Services Committee

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 wish to formally advise that I **do not** support the Bill nor the extension of the state of emergency due to the following reasons:

1. The current vaccination rate for Queensland residents 16 years and over is 90.93%. With very high levels of vaccination in Queensland, there is no justification for the emergency powers to be extended. The public have responded to the request to be vaccinated and the required 80% for herd immunity has been reached.
2. The ABS published [data](#) showing that since the pandemic started, 92% of people who died with COVID had serious underlying conditions and that COVID deaths represent less than one percent of the total of deaths in Australia over the past 22 months. Furthermore, the median age of COVID related deaths was 81 years for men and 86 years for women. Although any deaths are sad, this is hardly a disease that threatens the whole Australian population. The recovery rate of people with COVID in Australia using Worldometer data is 93% and that includes all deaths recorded as COVID deaths, many people died with COVID not because of COVID.
3. Although the Omicron variant spread more rapidly than the Delta variant it has proven to be not as serious as the Delta variant with most people experiencing only mild flu like symptoms, treatable at home. Chief Health Officer, Dr John Gerrard, stated that most people will be able to recover at home. The virus is also not discriminating against the unvaccinated, as stated by QLD government officials on more than one occasion. Both the vaccinated and unvaccinated have caught the virus with similar symptoms.
4. Several countries including the UK, and Ireland, have taken steps to lift restrictions placed on their residents, announcing that they will learn to “live with COVID” and that individuals are responsible for their own health. It is indefensible for the Government to continue as though COVID-19 is an ongoing serious threat to Queenslanders’ health when it is not.
5. The extended powers this Bill is proposing is a gross overreach of government and needs to be rejected. Since the pandemic started, Queenslanders have seen their economy seriously damaged, small businesses ruined, hundreds of thousands of jobs lost and people’s personal lives turned upside down. Furthermore, freedom of conscience, bodily autonomy, free speech, the right to peaceful assembly, the right to work, and government transparency has been negatively impacted. At some point we need to move on with our lives, especially if that emergency does not exist anymore, therefore we don’t need an extension of the emergency powers.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

Ferdinand Kruger

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