

To whom it may concern

As a Queensland citizen I write in objection to the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022.

It is of significant importance that the Committee take into consideration the basis for which the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services seeks to extend the operation of essential public health measures.

- According to ABS, 2556 people were identified as dying due to (with) COVID-19
- ABS states that 69.5% of these people had pre-existing chronic conditions. This equates to 1776 people who have died in the 21 months of the COVID-19 pandemic (Mar 2020 – Jan 2022).
- Considering the contextual morbidity, there is no justification for a continuation of severe disruption to the many aspects of the Australian economy, including but not limited to the following undisputed and genuine effects of the existing public health orders:
 - disruption and negative effect to the operation of Australian businesses.
 - employment discrimination against those who for whatever reason cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19.
 - isolation requirements for those returning to Australia, who may or may not be COVID-19 symptomatic.
 - denial and/or postponement of access to health care facilities to those not yet vaccinated
 - effect on the mental health of those affected by the above scenarios.
- The median age of those in Australia that died from COVID-19 was 83.7, yet the average lifespan for the Australian is 83.3
- Other predominant respiratory illnesses such as the flu which was related to 4124 deaths and ranked as the 9th leading cause of death in 2019, have not been treated in the same manner.

The continuing removal and loss of basic rights such as employment and access to public services for those who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 does not make sense in light of the evidence provided by the ABS above. By allowing an extension to the operation of essential public health measures, the destruction of the Australian economy will be exacerbated, and many lives will continue to be significantly and negatively affected.

Sources:

<https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/covid-19-mortality-australia>

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/life-tables/latest-release>

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/causes-death/causes-death-australia/2019>

My contact details are as follows

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Regards,

Hannah Mitchell