

Anna Di Perna

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

3 March 2022

To the Community Support and Services Committee Members,

- Ms Corrine McMillan, Member for Mansfield (Chair)
- Mr Stephen Bennett, Member for Burnett (Deputy Chair)
- Mr Michael Berkman, Member for Maiwar
- Mr Jon Krause, Member for Scenic Rim
- Ms Cynthia Lui, Member for Cook
- Mr Robert Skelton, Member for Nicklin

Parliament House,  
George Street,  
Brisbane,  
Queensland, 4000

By email: [CSSC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:CSSC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee Members,

I write to voice my strong opposition to the proposal tabled in Parliament which seeks to further extend the operation of essential public health measures implemented to facilitate Queensland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic from its original expiry date of 30 April 2022 to 31 October 2022. The following submission outlines the reasons for my strong stance against such a proposal, supported by facts and evidence and I ask the Committee to carefully consider the material presented here and put forward their recommendation that no such extension to the expiry date be permitted.

I graciously ask the Committee to consider the following:

1. The proposal for the extension of powers should be based on Covid-19 deaths in Queensland and Covid-19 numbers. The Australian Bureau of Statistics data is now confirming the exaggeration and misrepresentation of such data. The Australian Bureau of Statistics evidence reconfirms that there was no need to enforce the restrictions that have been in place for the past 2 years, especially if one considers that the Queensland Government opened its borders 13 December 2021 just prior to the peak Christmas tourism period, as “a new variant” was rampant and yet, the people of Queensland, were able to adequately deal with this, without Government intervention or interference due to lockdowns or other restricting impositions.
2. It has also been revealed that a normal Flu season has more deaths than Covid-19 deaths, without requiring any form of restrictions, mask-wearing, lockdowns, vaccination mandates or immunisation passports, measures which all contributed to the subsequent financial damage to the Queensland economy. The ex-Commonwealth Health Minister, The Hon. Greg Hunt, is on the record for having disclosed that in Australia “Covid-19 was the 38<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in 2020, with 898 registered deaths in total. Last year (in 2020) Australia had the third lowest Covid-19 mortality rate amongst countries in the OECD, in 2021, we have the second lowest Covid-19 mortality rate.” In fact, hospitals have indeed coped with the Omicron wave, without major issues or excessive deaths.  
  
The Australian Bureau of Statistics report and other substantial international data highlights that this pandemic was nothing like the plague, swine flu or Spanish flu and the State of Emergency powers have no valid reason to be extended. Queensland citizens have proven their ability to deal with little more than a flu outbreak, which, in effect, is what Covid-19 is, as confirmed in The Australian Bureau of Statistics data.
3. The economic loss to businesses in the Tourism, Hospitality and Retail sectors came about because the State of Emergency restrictions and lockdowns were unnecessary, given the low death rate as reported by The Australian Bureau of Statistics.
4. The discrimination and segregation that Queensland families, friends and the wider community have had to endure, as a result of the unnecessary State of Emergency vaccination mandates and immunisation passports imposed need

to be removed, not extended. These were totally unnecessary - an overreach of power - and now highly vexatious, based on the data published by The Australian Bureau of Statistics 15 February 2022.

5. The Queensland Government needs to put a stop to the overreach of power exerted and interference in the lives of Queenslanders, allowing them to return, unhindered, to a normal life, without the fear of further lockdowns, loss of livelihoods and the obligation of vaccination in return for the right to be able to earn a living.
6. The loss of thousands of critical first responders, teachers and other important workers, as a result of the State of Emergency mandates, is placing enormous pressure on businesses and Government authorities, due to a major shortage of staff in various industries.
7. The measures implemented under the State of Emergency have caused long-term suffering to aged care residents, due to isolation and staff shortages and distress to families with loved ones in aged care, not being able to visit. Moreover, it has also prohibited family and friends to celebrate weddings, attend funerals and pay last respects and has also caused an increase in mental health issues and suicides due to isolation, job loss and segregation. The State of Emergency saw the implementation of border closures which locked Queensland residents out of Queensland for months and stopped interstate arrivals who required medical treatment in Queensland from obtaining it. Furthermore, the State of Emergency has facilitated the loss of our inalienable human right of freedom of choice and the loss of our medical privacy guaranteed under The Privacy Act, with the introduction of vaccination mandates. The powers designated under the State of Emergency are also a direct violation of the Nuremberg code.
8. Lastly, The High Court of New Zealand has recently deemed that the State of Emergency mandates are not legal and the City of Gold Coast has put out an update where it declares it has made the decision not to pursue a mandatory vaccination policy for an illness (Covid-19) that presents with “flu-like symptoms which can be managed with non-prescription pain killers such as paracetamol”.

I therefore conclude, and trust that the Committee can appreciate, that there are so many valid reasons as to why the measures tabled in the proposed *Public Health and*

*Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022*, which seeks to further extend and implement:

- a. amendments to the Public Health Act 2005 to increase powers for emergency officers and the Chief Health Officer to limit, or respond to, the spread of Covid-19 in Queensland, support testing and quarantine requirements and authorise other public health measures;
- b. amendments to the Corrective Services Act 2006, Disaster Management Act 2003 and Mental Health Act 2016 to support the public health response;
- c. a head of power in the Covid-19 Emergency Response Act 2020 to make regulations to facilitate transitional arrangements for the temporary framework

not be allowed to continue past the current expiry date of 30 April 2022 to 31 October 2022 and that the Committee makes a recommendation not to support the proposed Bill for such an extension.

Yours sincerely,



Anna Di Perna