

I am against the extension of the Emergency Bill.

Governments around the world have taken enormous measures to reduce the death rate amongst people. Australia was extremely successful by imposing a number of measures including mask wearing, lockdowns, testing for covid, isolation rules and mandatory vaccinations for certain workers.

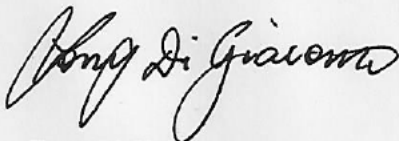
These measures greatly reduced the number of deaths as well as providing time for those living in Australia to be vaccinated. Currently, 94.5% of those who are 16 years of age and older are fully vaccinated. Vaccinations are a proven to reduce serious illness and death from the effects of Covid.

I believe the Emergency Bill to date has done its job. It has saved lives and enabled everyone the opportunity to be vaccinated and thus be protected from the serious effects of Covid. There is absolutely no need to extend the powers of the Emergency Bill to October 31st as this shows little faith in the role vaccinations are meant to play in overcoming the effects of Covid.

The time has come when the government needs to move towards giving everyone their own personal responsibility towards looking after their health. No longer should vaccines be made mandatory in any workplace, when only some 5% of the population remains unvaccinated. These people have made their own choice and have taken responsibility of their own well-being. Excluding them from certain jobs achieves little except unnecessary segregation.

It is time for all measures resulting from the Emergency Bill be removed and allow people to take their own measures. If another outbreak occurs, most people will wear a mask and ensure their vaccination is up to date. People must now take responsibility, similar to when a cyclone approaches the coastline. The government does not mandate that we clean our yards or secure loose objects. People take that responsibility. Likewise, it is not mandated, that if you work outdoors, you must have a tetanus shot. People take that responsibility.

With nearly 95% of our population vaccinated, it is now time for things to go back to the way things were before Covid arrived and give everyone the responsibility to look after themselves. The state government can continue to play an important role through education and recommendations, however, not through mandates and segregating people.



Tony Di Giacomo

