

Committee Secretary
Community Support and Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street Brisbane Qld 4000

3 March 2022

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

Dear Members of Parliament

Please act to bring about the total cessation all emergency powers on 30 April 2022.

I would have to say that almost everyone I know in Queensland (and I have lived here all my life) is exhausted and fed up with the Qld government Covid over-reach which has now become completely unwanted meddling in our lives and businesses.

We all have either had Covid now or know someone who has and we know that unless you already have serious health problems (those over 80 year of age or with significant comorbidities) then Covid is not that different to a common cold. Increasingly, one hears comments such as... "Covid was nothing compared to the flu I had a few years ago." **The Qld Government will look increasingly foolish if it continues with claiming emergency powers are needed after April.**

Enough is enough!

Due to my work in mental health, I am particularly aware of the harm that restrictions on the unvaccinated are having. It is especially impacting **across the disability sector leading to a shortage of experienced support workers**. I know many families with disabled sons and daughters who have been devastated to have to sack long-term, well-trained trusted support workers. Plus many of these excellent support workers have had their lives and livelihoods upturned by the unprecedented employment restrictions. I don't think most government members and officials understand the **unnecessary** stress and problems they have imposed on 100,000s of people across Queensland.

Why unnecessary? The emergency powers are allowing **restrictions which make no sense according to 2021 research** which showed that the vaccinated and unvaccinated are similar when it comes to spreading Covid 19...

For example, **a prominent UK study published in the Lancet** medical journal on 29 October 2021 found that while:

"fully vaccinated individuals with breakthrough infections have peak viral load similar to unvaccinated cases and can efficiently transmit infection in household settings, including to fully vaccinated contacts."

"(25% [95% CI 15-35] for vaccinated vs 23% [15-31] for unvaccinated)"

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34756186/>

A 30 September 2021 **published study out of Harvard** discovered:

"Increases in COVID-19 are unrelated to levels of vaccination across 68 countries and 2947 counties in the United States"

"The sole reliance on vaccination as a primary strategy to mitigate COVID-19 and its adverse consequences needs to be re-examined, especially considering the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant and the likelihood of future variants."

And referring to undue pressure being placed on the unvaccinated they state:

"Stigmatizing populations can do more harm than good."

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10654-021-00808-7>

So, it is both **unjustified and unjust** to continue treating unvaccinated people as if they were a major threat to society. People are catching Covid from vaccinated people all the time now.

Furthermore, many people now personally know of vaccinated people who have got much sicker than unvaccinated people so the government can't even say that they are "nudging" them to get vaccinated for their own good!

The mandated vaccines don't stop transmission of Omicron or prior variants. Segregating and restricting a group in society who are merely exercising their legitimate personal rights to choose their own medical treatments is **ethically wrong. It is also irrational** given the research findings.

History will judge... and so will the next election. Be on the right side of history for this. **Emergency powers should only be used in real emergencies.** To do otherwise is to violate human rights and to create conflict with other State and Federal legislation which is intended to protect our rights.

PLEASE call for all emergency health powers to end by 30 April 2022 or sooner!

Thank you and all the best.

M Lawrie

Respectfully

Mitchell Lawrie

