

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 Omicron variant spread more rapidly than the Delta variant, but it has proven to be not as serious 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. Thus, no need for mandates and discriminating against the unvaccinated. There is no data to support this any longer.
2. The current vaccination rate for Queensland residents 16 years and over is 90.93% and we have reached the 80% for herd immunity a few months ago.
3. 92% of people who died with COVID since the pandemic started 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 (According to [data](#) published from ABS on 15/2/2022). The recovery rate of people with COVID in Australia is more than 95% and the median age of COVID related deaths was 81 years for men and 86 years for women. This is hardly a disease that threatens the whole Australian population.
4. Lastly, several countries including the UK, and Ireland, have taken steps to live with COVID and lift restrictions placed on their residents. It is unjustifiable for the Government to continue their state of emergency when it is not one.
5. The extended powers this Bill is proposing is a gross overreach of government and needs to be rejected. It give the government powers to dictate Queenslanders lives, damage the economy and limit freedom of choice and free speech. The emergency does not exist anymore, therefore we don't need an extension of the emergency powers.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

Anand Kruger

