

4 March 2022

Committee Secretary

Community Support and Services Committee

Email: [cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee Secretary

**RE: PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS)  
AMENDMENT BILL 2022 (BILL)**

I wish to formally advise that I **do not** support the Bill nor the extension of the state of emergency. The sacrifice of the individual for the 'wellbeing of the community at large' is no longer justified. The heavy handed covid pandemic measures have caused more harm to the community than good.

As stated by Stephen Andrew, Queensland MP for Mirani, when discussing the SOE:

"Since then, we have seen our economy smashed, small businesses decimated, hundreds of thousands of jobs lost and people's lives turned upside down.

All sacrificed on the altar of "public safety" – along with free speech, the right to peaceful assembly, the right to work, freedom of conscience, bodily autonomy, government transparency and public trust in our institutions.

Even worse, has been the fundamental change in our relations with each other, a change clouded by suspicion and distrust."<sup>1</sup>

The negative impacts of covid have been manmade by poor decisions by government – initially based on lack of information and can be forgiven but now the evidence is clear that catching covid is not any more deadly than the flu or the mental health crisis. Decisions have been based on modelling but we can see from the Omicron wave it was extremely inaccurate and basing any further restrictions on public life is unjustified and unwise.

Comparison of countries around the world with a heavy-handed pandemic response vs those with no restrictions only guidelines (Sweden<sup>2</sup>, Japan<sup>3</sup>) show no benefit to mandates and restrictions. The latter were found to have lower death rates.

Claiming high vaccination rates are the cause for lower deaths than expected in Queensland can be challenged. South Africa had low vaccination rates and found Omicron was mild with headache and fatigue symptoms, similar to what was experienced in Queensland. Deaths were not a concern in South Africa with the Omicron wave. Queensland cannot claim that vaccination caused lower numbers when the virus itself was less virulent. The fact is the modelling was wrong, as most models are; risks were overinflated to justify draconian measures and instil fear into the community to comply.

Manmade covid issues:

- The isolation rules caused the high absentee rates and subsequent supply issues, putting pressure on communities, hospitals and retail. The problem went away when the manmade rule on close contacts and isolation period was changed.
- Isolation rules and vaccine mandates have caused the shortage of staff at hospitals – not the virus itself. Evidence – the number of covid positive people without symptoms asked to return to work due to shortages

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/StephenAndrewMP>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/sweden/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/japan/>

- Vaccine mandates are causing businesses to close down due to a shortage of staff, reduced patronage or because of their own right to bodily autonomy and conscience to refuse a provisionally approved medical intervention or refuse to comply with segregation – particularly affecting middle-class and small businesses.
- Isolation, limits on movement, closing of schools have caused a significant rise in mental health services demand since March 2020.<sup>4</sup>
- Vaccine mandates are causing skilled professionals to lose their jobs, skilled professionals who are able to weigh risks and make decisions. The evidence is not clear that an unvaccinated person causes more risk to anyone else as we have seen with the spread of Omicron among vaccinated people. If a person can choose to sky dive, drink alcohol, eat unhealthily and risk harm and death, why can't they decide if they want to take a provisional covid medical intervention that has risks and is only effective for a short period, when their chances of survival are over 99.7%?

Why does covid management get so much more focus than obesity, diabetes, smoking, alcohol, drugs, crime, domestic abuse, child abuse?

Emergency powers suspend democracy, individual freedom and open public discourse. Even this public discussion of this bill excludes people who are not fully vaccinated. This should cause alarm in itself.

I ask the committee to genuinely consider whether Queensland or indeed Australia, is still a liberal democracy if this bill is allowed to proceed. We are not in an emergency situation; this is not a sudden manifestation of urgent circumstances. The pandemic is at its end. There have been two years of unfounded draconian measures and there is no justification to extend them based on the current state of vaccination, the passing of the Omicron peak, the significantly lower number of deaths than modelled and the financial hardship that these restrictions are causing to a small but significant part of the community.

Regards

Andrea Crawford

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<sup>4</sup> <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/committees/HEC/2020/PublicHealth2020/trns-22Jan2021-PH.pdf>