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Extension of Emergency Bil

Community Support and Services Committee

Dear Committee,

I am writing to formally advise that I do not support any extension of the Public Health and Other Legislation Emergency Bill.

As you will be aware, the original Public Health Emergency was declared in January 2020, in response to the potential for COVID-19 to become a pandemic due to cases spreading to other countries, and the public health implications for Queensland with travellers recently arriving from the epicentre of the outbreak. The most recent (15/02/2022) ABS data indicates that the predicted case numbers and the original modelling for the COVID-19 pandemic was substantially overinflated.

What we have experienced over the past two years as a society, is a supposed cure that has been far worse than the disease itself. During the state of emergency, we have witnessed:

- A significant decline in mental health.
- Discrimination and community division through a two-tiered society.
- Coercion to maintain employment and support families.
- The loss and hardships of middle-class businesses.
- Ongoing trauma for the most vulnerable members of our community.
- Medical health care professionals unable to exercise their Hippocratic Oath and provide alternate treatments.
- A breach in all Human Rights with the overreach of politicians in the name of science. Science that is inconsistent in Australian and Internationally.
- The decline in our democratic rights as democratic citizens.

The current state of emergency powers have negatively forced pressure on Queenslanders through COVID-19 mandates resulting in experience professionals being forced out of the workforce, hence shortages and added stress across numerous professions.

It is time to allow Queenslanders to live with COVID-19. The potential for continued discrimination via these emergency powers is unacceptable to any democratic society, particularly when it seems that many Queenslanders have had COVID-19, now have natural immunity, and according to the Government's own modelling the peak has now passed. Therefore, any extension is not warranted and should NOT be granted.

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Yours sincerely,

Bobbie-Lee McMinn

