

[Last Name] 1

David & Sharon McGucken

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4/3/22

RE: Public Health & Legislation Extension of the Emergency Bill 2002 till October 2022 for COVID-19
mandates in QLD

To QLD Parliament Committee,

Our names are David & Sharon McGucken, residents of Toogoom, Fraser Coast QLD. David is a former Education QLD Principal 14yrs and a currently registered teacher of 26 years. Sharon is a currently registered primary and early childhood teacher of 26 years with a Masters in Education (Early Childhood Teaching) from QUT. As professional educators, we are writing to state our objection to the proposed extension of the Emergency Amendment Bill under COVID-19, Emergency Response Act 2020.

This bill was passed in January 2020 when QLD was under a public health emergency. In December 2021, the QLD Government introduced risk mitigation measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by introducing any education worker in a high-risk setting be fully vaccinated. These current mandates are unlawful under the Federal Commonwealth Constitution Act and further extension to the bill will extend these mandates. David and I oppose these mandates and we have found them to be:

- Disruptive to our employment- As pro-choice voters, it is illegal for us to be on our former school sites and hence we have been forcedly suspended. This has resulted in

[Last Name] 2

no job security, denied medical exemption and dwindling leave payments for remaining unvaccinated against a landscape of highly potential adverse reactions to vaccines.

- Obsolete – In the United Kingdom and many other nations, international amendments have lifted all manner of COVID mandates and legislation. Australia (QLD Govt) must follow suite. Common sense to easing restrictions in QLD has begun to emerge with most mask location restrictions effective from 6pm today. Our state has recently opened to international visitors and overturned QLD Firefighter Industry mandates and Check-in apps in retail venues. There are no longer daily, but weekly COVID reporting of cases and of yesterday March 3rd, only six deaths in QLD reported.

Therefore, this phasing approach must extend to lifting mandates and NOT extend to a supposedly emergency act till October 2022. QLD Government statistics (www.Qld.gov.au) today report 91% of the state are fully vaccinated with only 25 patients currently in ICU. Given such a high compliance or coercion to being vaccinated to stay medically or financially confidently employed in QLD, we see no further need to increase powers for emergency officers or the Chief Health Officer to limit or restrict our movements in Education QLD Workplaces.

- In deficient- The current four vaccine options are commonly referred to as “experimental’ or have provisional status. No assurances of immunity are given for the vaccinated. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated citizens can transmit COVID. Extending the emergency act will only continue to segregated and discriminate individuals in a supposedly democratic country. The only real emergencies posing current threats are catastrophic East Coast flooding and the invasion into Ukraine.

[Last Name] 3

We now implore the committee NOT to reinstate an extension of the emergency act. This act must expire and allow our qualified educational workers access to respect and rights to work without contempt or mandates.

Thank you for consideration of our simple and necessary request.

Yours sincerely,

David & Sharon McGucken