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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 March 2022 5:02 PM  
**To:** Community Support and Services Committee  
**Subject:** Submission- PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2022

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**Categories:** Submission

Dear Committee,

I am writing in regards to:

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- further extend the operation of essential public health measures implemented to facilitate Queensland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- extend amendments to the *Corrective Services Act 2006*, *Disaster Management Act 2003* and *Mental Health Act 2016* to support the public health response.

At this stage, i would like to highlight the negative impact taking place in regional qld, particularly for small businesses.

Business confidence is currently low, employment opportunities are decreasing and a majority of retail and hospitality businesses are tired of the extreme measures taken to supposedly suppress covid.

Personally owning 2 restaurants and a local independent convenience store who collectively employ 24 team members, i would like to submit the following concerns:

- We have been faced to let some team members go due to high wage costs and insufficient turn over.
- Weve restricted hours of other team members, especially the casual
- Weve experienced a negative business turnover range of between 15-35% over the last 12 months
- Stock supply shortages
- Tightening of accounts from suppliers from 30 days or 14 days to 7days
- Fuel Levies imposed
- Commodity pricing increases of 15-25% across fruit, vegetables & meat/dairy
- Increased business cost delivery to implement Covid guidelines for venues
- Qualified staff shortages- large numbers of chefs have left the industry due to covid mandates, due to work inconsistency, due to lock downs & associated stand downs

These are to list just a few, but certainly the major points. Futher extensions of these provisions will be nothing short of detrimental to an already stressed industry.

Ive personally heard of workplace bullying, workplace unfair dismissals, workplace discrimination and yet these provisions were supposedly designed to keep us all safe, well what about small businesses.

To date i have seen no safe guards regarding any of the above points, no additional funding towards job security, no further tax breaks, nothing other than committees being formed to discuss relevant issues without any regards to business consultation.

I have heard the frustration levels of many hospitality business owners and the green tick dilemma caused through enforcing the delivery of this program and then also the restriction of being able to attend meetings due to many not having the green ticks with public events being held in restricted spaces.

What are the answers? Surely by now the public that are going to have their vax, have had it, and those that havent will remain the same. If the vax status that was sold to us is indeed accurate, then those not vaxed are at greater risk and lets get on with business before its too late and the mental health of business owners is further jeopardised and closures in vast numbers begin.

Many thanks for your reading.  
Dion

Dion Taylor  
Founder

