

Dear Community Support and Services Committee,

The purpose of this email is to inform you that I am AGAINST the extension of the Emergency Bill from 30 April 2022 to 31 October 2022.

The reasons for my position in this matter are as follows:

1. The state of emergency impacts my ability to work:

I am a HPE teacher who is currently on suspension with pay from my job because I refused to be double vaccinated. I was originally suspended without pay from the 20th of January, however I caught COVID on the 25th of February and am now suspended with pay, but still not allowed back at school. If the mandates remain in place, I will continue to be kept away from my work and after the 24th of May, I will no longer be suspended with pay and will go back to being suspended without pay until June 30th. I am a father of an almost 1-year old boy and this will severely impact my ability to put a roof over his head, food in his stomach and clothes to keep him warm. We now know that being double or triple vaccinated does not stop you from catching or spreading COVID, nor does it stop you from getting very sick, ending up in hospital, being put on a ventilator or dying from it. I am receiving emails from my work almost daily informing me that a teacher and multiple students have received a positive diagnosis of COVID - considering there are no unvaccinated teachers at school right now, how are these vaccines stopping transmission or stopping people from getting sick?

All public sectors are short staffed and struggling at the moment because of COVID vaccine mandates. Instead of allowing unvaccinated staff back to help with these shortages, we have started to allow asymptomatic COVID positive vaccinated workers back into high risk settings, such hospitals and aged care facilities. There are thousands of perfectly healthy unvaccinated people that could be there to fill those roles. We need to put an end to the medical apartheid and stop treating the unvaccinated like they are diseased and outcasts of society as they are no more likely to catch, spread or die from this disease than vaccinated people.

2. The science does not support the continuation of the mandates for all members of the public:

Over the past few weeks, we have seen numerous situations of countries, organisations and councils refusing and revoking the mandates based on the data available to them. The UK and Canada have now revoked all mandated and are choosing to learn to "live with COVID". The QFES and Gold Coast Councils have refused to mandate vaccinations for their employees, citing the following reasons:

- The omicron wave has peaked in Queensland
- Vaccinations rates are high (almost 93% in Queensland)
- The Federal and Queensland governments have announced key changes to public health and social measures to assist in a return to normalcy, including allowing international travellers to enter the country and the removal of masks and density limits from today (4 March).
- Updated risk assessments on the severity of COVID-19 do not support the need to mandate vaccinations as most people infected with COVID-19 have omicron, which results in mild, flu-like symptoms that are self-managed at home.

Recent data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics also does not support the continuation of mandates for all people. The report states that "Most deaths due to COVID-19 have other conditions listed on the death certificate (91.4%)" and that "on average, deaths due to COVID-19 had 2.7 other diseases and conditions certified alongside the virus". While vaccinations may be a valid precautionary action for some members of the public who have increased risk factors (e.g. age, underlying health conditions), it is not reasonable to mandate the vaccinations for every person.

There are also hundred of deaths and hundreds of thousands of reports of adverse reactions due to the COVID-19 vaccinations reported to the TGA. I am wanting to be pregnant again at some point this year and the thought of requiring experimental vaccinations or boosters with no long term data absolutely terrifies me. The safety and effectiveness of these vaccines have not been proven beyond reasonable doubt. I cannot give valid or informed consent to a vaccination that I do not know the long-term risks of and am being coerced into taking to keep my job and support my family.

3. Impact on community:

We have seen severe discrimination and segregation in our communities due to the vaccine mandates, which is having a number of negative impacts on our communities

- Small businesses are losing money and shutting down.
- Unvaccinated staff have been suspended and/or terminated due to their medical choices – perfectly healthy, experienced and qualified people not allowed to work, causing unprecedented shortages. Some of the best teachers, educators, nurses, doctors and police may never come back to the profession. What will be the long lasting impact of this?
- Families and friends are turning on each other and isolating people for exercising their right to bodily autonomy.
- People have missed the opportunity to attend funerals, weddings, births of their children, end of life visits due to these mandates – such important parts of a person's life that they will never get back.

I implore you to end the state of emergency. We have been educated on dealing with COVID under a State of Emergency for over two years now. Give people their freedoms back and allow them to make the best personal choices for themselves and their families. People will still have the option to wear masks and get vaccinated if they want to. We need to be free to make our own decisions when it comes to our health and be free to move within society without being isolated or judged for our personal medical decisions.

Take notice that I demand the extension of the state of emergency powers NOT be approved and all COVID-19 restrictions and vaccine mandates be revoked immediately.

Kind Regards,

Joel Curnow [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]