

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 maternity leave and am due back to work in Term 2 (18 April 2022). If the mandates remain, I will not be permitted on site due to my choice not to receive a medical intervention that does not stop me from catching, transmitting or dying from COVID-19. I am concerned that a replacement who is not qualified or as experienced as me will have a negative impact on the educational success of my students – they have suffered enough!

My husband is also a teacher and we have a one year old son to support. Not having an income due to the mandates will cause significant financial hardship, along with emotional and marital stress.

Schools, hospitals, emergency services are all suffering due to the shortage of staff caused by COVID-19 isolation and now the floods. These shortages can be easily filled by allowing healthy, non-vaccinated staff back to work. We need to stop treating un-vaccinated people as though they are infected with COVID at all times or pose a significant risk to those around them.

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,

Meagan Curnow

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