
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 March 2022 6:34 PM
To: Community Support and Services Committee
Subject: Do not extend the Emergency Bill.

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Good evening,

I'm not the type of person who usually sends these emails, but it's come the time to say something. I'm usually happy to let governments and specialists make decisions which impact their constituents because I can usually trust they know what they are doing and that their methods will get results.

Unfortunately, it has become apparent that this has not been the case for the Emergency Bill.

While the threat of COVID-19 is still present in Australia, we here in Far North Queensland have barely felt the impacts of this pandemic. However, we have felt the impacts of the mandates and laws put into place because someone sneezed a two or three day's drive's distance from us.

We have very low case numbers here and citizens are so well trained at social distancing and isolating that the spread is very diminutive.

However, mandates keep parents out of school, people out of cafes and restaurants, loved ones from each other, elders in homes away from their families, and young couples from being married.

As a first-year, beginning teacher living in rural Far North Queensland, I am yet to meet the parents of children who need partnership between parents and teachers to improve their situations in schools. Students who live in out of home care or live with disabilities are unable to receive the support they need because specialists, parents, and teachers are not allowed to meet. Good teachers have quit their jobs and everyone in school is feeling the pressure from their choices. Choices made because of choices made by those who believe they know best. When the future generations are in detriment because they cannot access education, teachers and schools scramble to make that access happen. Why is parliament deterring this from happening?

On a more personal note, my sister-in-law and her fiancé are hoping to get married this year. As restrictions on unvaccinated people attending weddings brings the numbers down to 20 if even just one unvaccinated person attends, they are experiencing undue stress and bereavement within their circumstances. While a well attended ceremony a marriage does not make, healthy minds certainly do.

If restaurants can serve more people than can attend a wedding, and churches can serve more attendants than a wedding can, and a wedding is no more than a short church service followed by a nice dinner, why are weddings capped at 20 people if one of them is unvaccinated?

As a vaccinated person from a family of anti-vaxxers, my own family has been wrenched apart by these laws. My parents believe that I am brain washed by my government and my sister thinks I'm an idiot for getting the vax. Moreover, I love my family, and I hate to see them restricted from accessing the lives they require to live in the Far North. I have friends and colleagues who cannot access health care because they choose to remain unvaccinated. That is flat out a human rights violation. Is the Australian Government concerned about their nation not holding to human rights standards common in third world countries? Or does it only matter if they are within the white population of Australia? Or the vaccinated population of Australia? Segregation and discrimination come in all colours.

As a 25 year old Australian, I learned about the White Australia Policy in school. We learned these were bad policies which segregated the nation and discriminated against Australians and potential Australians. While we still see aspects of the White Australia Policy in place today, we are seeing worse segregation today due to the vaccination policies.

While I understand the positions taken by governments in more developed areas of the nation, in Far North Queensland we have a population density of 2.25 people per square kilometre. That's one person per 475ms. We've got lots more space than just 4ms² each. Therefore we do not need such strict restrictions as are needed in cities.

I appreciate that you have taken the time to read, consider, and include my opinions and presented facts. I hope the quality of life of all Australians will begin to increase again as the Emergency Bill is not extended this year.

Jesse Winspear