

Dear Committee,

I strongly object to any Extension of the Emergency Bill due to the prevalence of Omicron's extremely low death rate compared to the delta/alpha variants.

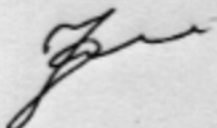
My personal experience also supports this conclusion. I was tested positive for COVID-19 after a PCR test on 7 February 2022. My doctor recommended this test because I experienced some discomfort on Friday, 4 February 2022. I did not receive any treatment. I never had a cold, headache or breathing problems. Four days later, I was well again. Many people I know of experienced the same very mild symptoms. I know therefore that Omicron is less severe than a normal flu.

Why was the original Emergency Bill based on a death rate from the Alpha and Delta variants? There is substantial evidence that the original modelling was based on overinflated health data. This surely is not a reliable or justifiable basis for the extension of powers.

Current estimates indicate that Omicron deaths are only a very small fraction of those adjusted numbers. Any extension is not warranted and should NOT be granted.

As a hard-working Australian citizen, I object against the continued discrimination that results from these emergency powers. My own career as health worker ended abruptly and I am no longer able to support my family. I know that there are thousands of Australians in the same position.

Please do not extend the Emergency Bill.



Francois van der Hoven

