

I, Christopher Jamie Pidd, do NOT support this bill. It represents an unjust and inhumane extension of tyrannical powers that the Queensland government has demonstrated it can, *and will*, use to excessive extent.

When the COVID-19 pandemic commenced in early 2020, and even through later months of 2020, it could be argued that an initial lack of clear data somewhat justified taking these extreme measures *for a limited amount of time*, in order to protect the public while the world learned more about this new threat to public health and safety. Extension of these powers represents an utter lack of effort to adapt response protocols based on new information that has been gathered since the pandemic's onset.

The recent wave of lockdown measures enacted under this authority stands as an excellent example of the Queensland government's excessive and unwarranted use of these powers. The Delta variant of COVID-19 has been around since late 2020, when it was first detected in India. This has allowed time for data gathering. The data has shown that the Delta variant has an *even lower* fatality risk than the initial Alpha variant. It is only 0.1%! Data from the UK indicates that this fatality rate *includes* unvaccinated people! In an article published on 24 June, 2021^o, Public Health England stated that two-thirds of those diagnosed with the Delta variant had *not* been vaccinated, due to age ineligibility. Yet even with such a large proportion of cases being among the unvaccinated, the fatality rate was *still* only 0.1%. According to this article, "Out of a total of 92,029 Delta cases sequenced since February, there have been 117 deaths or 0.13 per cent." It goes on to say that among those 117 deaths, 109 of them were over the age of 50, and thus already in a more vulnerable age group, which Australia has already made progress in vaccinating.

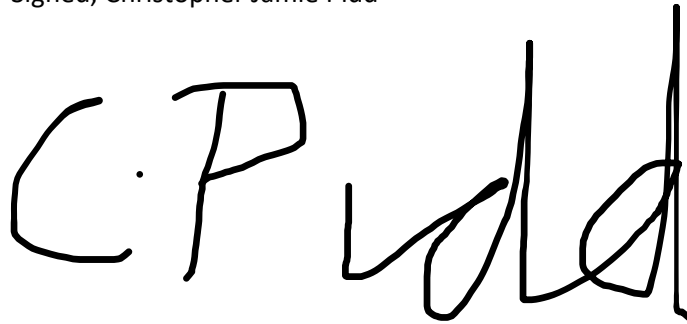
Given this data, there is *no* scientific justification for the government's decision to hold Australians prisoner in their own homes, force them to close their own businesses, and prohibit them from traveling to see family and loved ones. Such extreme measures aren't enacted in the face of other viruses with similar fatality rates, so how can it possibly be justified in this one? The only possible explanation for efforts to extend these powers is the government's desire to perpetuate the fear narrative among the Australian people, and there is *not* evidence to justify this fear.

As the rest of the world moves towards an acceptance of the inevitable reality of living with COVID-19, Australia seems determined to dig in its heels and move backwards instead, fueling further fear among its people. This is sickening, and directly violates the values of freedom on which this nation thrives. It is common knowledge that the vaccine rollout has been disappointing at best, but the government's obsession with total case numbers rather than useful information

such as hospitalizations and fatalities is manipulative and denies the growing body of information that indicates COVID-19 is not nearly as deadly as the world initially feared.

I call on the members of this committee to stand up for the freedoms of this nation and its people. Reclaim the power that has been abused by the hands of those who feed fear rather than presenting honest facts. Stop trying to terrify people into vaccine compliance with threats of lockdowns and extensions of government control due to “scary” new variants, and find pathways to support safe and reasonable reopening plans and positive vaccine incentives. As Australia rolls out its vaccine, consideration needs to be given to easing restrictions for the lower-risk vaccinated demographic while the nation continues to build its herd immunity, *not* reaffirming such tyrannical powers as those represented in this bill. Even giving consideration to a bill like this is a waste of the government’s time and the taxpayers dollars, because the government’s focus should be on finding a way *out*, not digging in deeper.

Signed, Christopher Jamie Pidd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Pidd', with a stylized, cursive flourish extending from the end.A black rectangular redaction mark covering a signature.