

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Economics and Governance Committee](#)
Subject: Submission - Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021
Date: Thursday, 1 July 2021 3:11:28 PM

I, Sharyn Anne Durley, do NOT support this bill particularly its proposed 'end date' of April 2022.

Emergency powers were justified in the early days of the pandemic, prior to there being no practical method of protecting our population. However, wholesale extension of these emergency powers for the proposed extended period is not a necessary or risk based measure in the current environment.

Data has shown that the Delta variant of Covid has an *even lower* fatality risk than the initial Alpha variant. Scientific data from the UK indicates that the identified 0.1% fatality rate *includes*

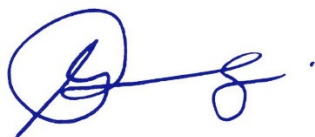
unvaccinated people In an article published on 24 June, 2021^[1]. Public Health England stated that two-thirds of those diagnosed with the Delta variant had *not* been vaccinated, due to age ineligibility. Yet even with such a large proportion of cases being among the unvaccinated, the fatality rate 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.

As the rest of the world moves towards an acceptance of the inevitable reality of living with COVID-19, we seem determined to dig in our heels and continue to use the old 'stop gap' measures that were the only things available at the beginning. Like an increasing number of people, I appreciate that this pandemic has been an enormous challenge for governments around the world and until the miracle of a vaccine was available, I was patient and grateful for our nation's efforts. However, I am now frustrated and angry at the lack of real progress with the two critical actions that would help us live more normally – (a) rolling out vaccination at a reasonable pace and (b) constructing adequate, fit for purpose quarantine facilities. Extending emergency powers for greater than 3 months is, in my view, enabling more procrastination, fear mongering and gives support to the "it's not a race" mentality.

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^[1] "Low Death Rate from Delta Variant 'hugely Encouraging' for Vaccine Success." *Inews.co.uk*, 25 June 2021,

[inews.co.uk/news/politics/zero-deaths-from-delta-variant-for-double-jabbed-under-50s-figures-show-1071527](https://www.inews.co.uk/news/politics/zero-deaths-from-delta-variant-for-double-jabbed-under-50s-figures-show-1071527).