

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Economics and Governance Committee](#); [Ross Vasta MP](#); [Mansfield Electorate Office](#)
Subject: The Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021
Date: Thursday, 1 July 2021 10:17:55 PM

I would like to make a submission to the Committee regarding the above public health Bill which was tabled by the Health Minister on June 16, 2021.

Yes, COVID has caused a world wide crisis and required action on the part of governments all over the world to meet that crisis. It does, however, require a significant credibility stretch to still call it an 'emergency' eighteen months later. The emergency powers in question were granted with the stated goal being to "flatten the curve" so that our hospital system was not overwhelmed. Our hospital system is managing perfectly well with the negligible number of COVID patients it has had to deal with during the last 18 months. For reasons perhaps yet unknown, although the virus in all its variants is "highly transmissible", no-one here in Queensland is getting particularly ill. Not only that, but the most vulnerable are now being vaccinated, treatments are available and the threat is not what it once was.

This is no longer a public health emergency. It is a situation that requires management and forward planning, but it does not require the infringement of personal freedoms that the government seems to be so keen to impose upon its citizens. Persist with this Bill, and the electorate will recognise it for the power grab that it is. Yes, lockdowns and border closures have been popular, but I can see that tide turning now. More and more people are fed up and beginning to voice their unrest and longing for a way forward and out of this current mess. We don't want to be "kept safe" anymore. We want to know how and when we're going to be allowed to get on with our lives.

I would urge the Committee to scrap the Bill and for the government to focus instead on forward planning to open up the state and find a new normal in which we learn how to live with COVID.

Kind regards,
Mary Gellatly