

From: Sam Redman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 July 2021 12:43 PM
To: Economics and Governance Committee
Subject: Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions)
Amendment Bill 2021

I object to the further extension of emergency powers for the QLD government to impose restrictions on its people.

This objection is to support human rights which until this "emergency", were relatively in tact.

I quote the following from the human rights statement accompanying the bill.

"Despite overall low numbers of COVID-19 in Queensland and few restrictions now in place on the movement and gathering of people, there is still potential for larger scale outbreaks. The current global epidemiological situation, with sustained growth in new cases and the spread of highly transmissible COVID-19 variants, continues to present a very significant risk to the community."

At the start of COVID 19, key messaging was to slow the spread - which was achieved. Now the messaging is stop the spread which is not achievable. Not even the vaccine can stop transmission or stop the virus entering a human body. Emergency powers should be used scarcely and not as a political tool to get one over the Federal Liberal Government or appease State Labor Government need to maintain power and control through fear mongering and inconvenience. Human right assessments need to consider the impact of the decision on its people. Therefore the decision needs to weigh up the actual risk of covid spreading vs the potential and actual impact further restrictions place on mental health (anxiety, suicides & family breakdowns) which to date have caused far more deaths than covid has. But those things will never be declared an emergency will it?!

The thing that frustrates me about these emergency powers is that currently there is no emergency in QLD - despite the media's best attempts. Potential risk for emergency, perhaps - but this does not constitute shutting everything down and restricting human rights in the meantime and the quarantining of the healthy. A so called 'outbreak' or a 'cluster' is deemed as being 1 or 2 locally transmitted cases. Wow! More people are at risk of a road accident. That's how woefully inadequate the risk profile of this virus is - but is the same risk profile which is driving this bill. Hospitals are not being flooded and overwhelmed with patients (well at least not covid ones anyway!). And people are not dying in the street. Sure you might attribute that to lockdowns to date, but the situation has dramatically changed in the last year which means emergency powers are not needed to be extended this time around.

Should these draconian laws be passed (again) I fear any minute risk of an 'emergency' occurring in the future will trigger similar responses. This is not okay! Risk is a part of life and it's not the government's job to determine what that risk is or could be. People have brains and can make their own choices about their own health and this is in essence what human rights are. The same human rights the Government (and chief health officer) has a role to protect, not diminish away in a quest for more power.

Regards

Sam Redman

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the contact information of Sam Redman.