

**From:** Lesleigh Ann [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 3 July 2021 3:11 PM  
**To:** Economics and Governance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Health Legislation paper

Committee Secretary  
Economics and Governance Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Ms Lesleigh Jackson  
[REDACTED]

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

**Re: Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill**

**2021**

Dear Sir or Madam,

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/EGC/inquiries/current-inquiries/PHOLFEEPAB2021?fbclid=IwAR2LcBttGfG1la7IfTeGFaFUDKzDFIqDTjNTCimHO8V5qP9rMBou6HArtw8>

I write in regard to the above named proposed bill (please see link) and concerns regarding the wording of the objectives I quote below...

“establish a new prepayment system for quarantine fees, including allowing for the prescription of cohorts for whom fees must be paid in advance or for whom fees may be waived, and supporting more flexible payment and collection arrangements (including refund provisions). “

I assume “prescription of cohorts” refers to privately owned, NGO collection agencies and the like? If my interpretation is incorrect, please clarify what this term means.

I urge the committee to reflect on the infamous “robo-debt” debacle enacted by the Federal Government, illegally as it turns out, that harassed and badgered innocent people who were, for the most part, financially at risk as well as totally innocent of these charges. A private organization would use a computerized system because profits would be their primary objective. There would, inevitably, be errors, just as the robodebt system illustrated - therefore we could see innocent people self-harm and undergo enormous unnecessary stress. I recognize these are difficult times, however, it is imperative that the State Government does not repeat a well illustrated atrocity such as a “robo-debt” computerized system controlled by private organizations with profit as their primary aim.

I strongly to a NGO given any kind of debt collection “contract” and ask the Minister and Cabinet to reconsider. I would suggest that the Government could safely instruct the public authorities, be they the police or within the department of Justice to administer such a program. If this is the Government’s intention, please clarify within the bill, how this would be administered.

I feel that communication and clarification in these difficult times must be a priority. I note that many people are polarizing the community into “pro-vaxers” and “anti-vaxer/conspiracy theorists” when in fact all people are doing is seeking facts, and want those facts to be well documented and clearly described. The vast majority of people want to comply and bring this awful pandemic to an end, but we want to do this without losing our humanity, personal rights or marginalizing anyone.

Therefore, I respectfully ask the Minister and cabinet to reconsider this bill, weigh up the use of certain words such as “cohort” and offer clear communications/explanations to the public.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lesleigh Jackson

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*Lesleigh Ann*