From:

**Economics and Governance Committee** 

**Subject:** Public Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

**Date:** Tuesday, 6 July 2021 2:12:48 PM

Dear Committee Secretary,

With regards to the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further extension of expiring provisions) Amendment Bill 2021, I wish to convey the reasons why I do not believe this extension of the current Bill to be reasonable or warranted.

This Bill is currently due to expire on 30 September 2021. The justifications which Ms D'Ath have put forward are based on the perceived current levels of risk, referencing outbreaks in other States from March and May 2021. Both of these outbreaks were at the very start of the Vaccination rollout plan for Australia, with very low numbers of people vaccinated at that time.

By the time this Bill is due to expire, the number of people who would have received at least one shot, if not two, will be much greater than what our nation had in March. As shown in many areas, people who have received these shots have a much lower risk of having symptoms, and to date no-one in Australia has required hospitalisation from Covid after having their shots.

Logic would say that after September, the risk to the community from any outbreak will be very minimal, and certainly not require widespread lockdowns.

On this basis there should be no reason whatsoever for our Government to feel the need to continue with lockdowns after the end of the current Bill, unless they expect to fail in their own implementation of the rollout.

The cost to small and medium business however is much graver. We are currently in another lockdown with no government aid to help the thousands of businesses and individuals get through this. The increase in mental health issues caused by these lockdowns is much more serious than the risk of outbreaks after vaccination too.

For these reasons and many more, I ask that you dismiss this Extension of the Public Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Anna Russell