



07/07/2021

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to express my opposition towards the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021 that the Hon Yvette D'Ath MP has introduced.

Enough is enough! The Premier and the rest of the Queensland government need to stop hiding behind the Chief Health Officers health advice and start realising that their intent to keep Queenslanders safe is coming at the cost of everyday Queenslanders livelihoods. This bill is being extended until April 2022? How many more times are you going to ask for an extension after this one?

I cannot stand the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk and if I were to meet her or any member of her cabinet in person I would have nothing nice to say at all, HOWEVER, as much as I dislike it, THEY WERE ELECTED, not the CHO, and they need to take responsibility for the decisions that affect Queenslanders. Saying that their hands are tied and decisions of compassion are left up to the CHO is utter rubbish.

For my family, it was the hard border closure that began in August 2020 and excluded the entire state of NSW from entering QLD that affected us the most. As my husband worked in Northern NSW at the time and we lived on Brisbane's Southside we were separated and had to decide which was more important, our income to provide for our growing family or being together and my husband supporting me through the remainder of my pregnancy and birth of our second child.

According to Dr. Young's border directions and exemption criteria, his work, was not essential enough for QLD to be allowed to travel back and forth across the border each week, contradictory to every job being essential in Australia.. His risk, working in the tiny town of Casino (2470) was too high, even though there has never been community transmission in the region to date. In the end, my husband continued to work in NSW as long as he could until as close to my due date as we thought was safe. About a week after he left his mandatory hotel quarantine our son was born and a few days later, the hard border was ceased.

I will never forgive Dr. Young or QLD health for the stress I felt during what should have been one of the happiest times in my life.

If you are going to pass this bill then the Queensland government needs to show that they are truly with the people of this state and hold themselves accountable each time a restriction is placed upon our communities. When lockdowns occur or the border is closed and businesses are forced to cease operations or cut their rostering, they lose out on profits and wages, but we don't see the CHO or Premier suffer the same consequences. If we're truly in this together, it's about time those making the decisions, also make similar sacrifices.

I dare all those that agree with this bill to walk in the shoes of a small business owner or a resident of a border community including those interstate and see how you survive.

Regards,
Elizabeth Ishii