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**From:** Jena Frylink [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 July 2021 2:31 PM  
**To:** Economics and Governance Committee  
**Subject:** Opposition to the extension of the Public Health & Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

Attention: Committee Secretary for the Economics & Governance Committee

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I write to you today to express my **vehement opposition to the further extension of the Public Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021**, as I believe that the consequences of this extension will be far too damaging to the lives of Queenslanders and indeed destructive to our democratic way of life.

**This Bill is, and will continue to be, damaging to our democracy:**

As part of a democratic society, all Queenslanders have previously enjoyed many freedoms and 'norms', including the freedom of movement, the freedom of assembly, the freedom of association, the freedom of expression, and public discussion and debate. These freedoms and ways of life are under considerable threat due to this current emergency powers Bill.

The current emergency powers have given Emergency Officers and the Chief Health Officer unlimited authority to reduce, limit or abolish citizens freedoms of movement, freedoms to associate and assemble with others, restrict freedoms of expression (social media posts are deleted if they are not consistent with the QLD Government's information), and many forms of public discussion and debate are shut down or limited. I will not even speculate as to the motive of the Government in this matter. It is simply unacceptable for any government to restrict or do away with such freedoms in a democratically ruled country, especially when there is insufficient evidence to prove that there genuinely is a pandemic or 'state of emergency' (I will address this issue further in my submission).

Even this very Bill was given no 'airtime' on mainstream media news, so much for public discussion and debate on something as serious as continuing to extend emergency powers! And my parents only stumbled across knowledge that our government were quietly trying to pass this Bill, while researching online yesterday. This Bill has been put forward in an urgent and rushed manner, which has limited the opportunity for public and parliamentary scrutiny.

The way of life that most Australians have cherished since federation, is under threat right now. If your committee approves the Bill, citizens will no longer be able to operate freely, in their personal lives, their businesses, and their various community connections, as they previously have. Queenslanders must continue to enjoy the rights, privileges and responsibilities that come from living in a democratic society.

**This Bill is, and will continue to be, destructive to business, organisations, individuals, marriages & families:**

Small businesses across Queensland are not just doing it tough, many businesses have been devastated by the enforcement of lockdowns, mask mandates, and other restrictions and requirements. The stress and pressure that has been placed on organisations and businesses to implement new regimes and processes with signing in, restricting the number of persons in their premises, and monitoring other health-related requirements, has been overwhelming for so many. Whether the stress, pressure, damage and hardship caused to these businesses, organisations and the individuals that run them, is necessary and indeed worth it to the overall health situation, is a matter that I will address further in this submission.

Speaking to a local business owner in Caloundra just yesterday morning, he was teary as he expressed to my parents that he is seriously hanging in there by a thread. He is an older gentleman who has owned the family-run business for many years, but he said to my parents that the constant instability is putting too much

pressure on his mental health. Last Tuesday when the 3-day lockdown was announced, he prepared a sign to put on his door saying that regrettably, he must close his business for 3 days. Then an hour later, after speaking with other local business owners, he decided that he would remain open, so he prepared another sign to put on his door. But then, after speaking with his son, who is part-owner of the business, as well as his wife, they prepared yet a third sign to say that they would open with reduced hours and further limitations. He said he barely slept that night from stress, worrying if he was breaking any 'laws' by remaining open and scared he may be fined. He was unsure whether he was considered an 'essential worker' and told me that he is considering closing his shop.

This is just one business owner!! My family have spoken to person after person in our local community, who are suffering because of these unnecessary measures. EVERY QUEENSLAND WORKER IS AN ESSENTIAL WORKER! It is essential to them and those that depend on them, that they have the right to work! Every Queenslanders has the right to work and support themselves and their family. Every Queenslanders has the right to engage in life to its fullest, including a planned wedding, funeral, birthday celebration or special occasion. The instability and damage must cease immediately.

So far during this 'pandemic', the emergency powers have enabled the QLD Government to wreak havoc in people's lives! The instability and constant change in life have been overwhelmingly destructive. The decisions, the mandates, and restrictions that the QLD Government have implemented have directly impacted, but not limited to, the following: Livelihoods have been lost; mental health issues have escalated enormously, as had suicide; marriage have been ruined; families are breaking down, and the list of devastation goes on and on. This is the government's doing, and they must be held accountable for the disproportionate, destructive measures that they have forced onto the residents of QLD. If your committee approves a further extension of these emergency powers, the damage will continue. The unbelievable hardship that many people are facing must be stopped and the people of Queensland must be allowed to rebuild their lives and move forward with stability.

My parents are proud and blessed to have four teenage daughters. Myself and my siblings have struggled over the last 18 months, due to uncertainty, fear, and instability. Myself and one of my sisters have lost income due to reduced hours in our part-time employment. This is caused anxiety and stress, as well as financial pressure. One of my sisters has ASD (Autism) and has struggled immensely. The wearing of face masks has been incredibly stressful for her, causing her anxiety to peak dangerously high at times. She is medically exempt from having to wear a mask, due to her ASD, but seeing everyone in masks and engaging with people who are wearing masks, has triggered high levels of anxiety. Lockdowns have created fear, and at times, she has been unable to go out with her support worker and attend therapies, due to debilitating fear, stress and anxiety. This is just one teenage girl with ASD! How many others are suffering right now due to the emergency powers that this government has been granted? This extension absolutely cannot be extended.

A close friend of our family, who is a child psychologist / counsellor in Caloundra, spoke to my parents last Tuesday afternoon, sharing her sadness and outrage that the 3-day lockdown meant that she would be unable to meet with her clients, as the company she is employed with, chose to close their office / meeting rooms, for the 3-day lockdown. They chose to do this as it was too difficult to manage the various restrictions and requirements the government said they would be enforcing, punishable with fines. She had the option of meeting online with some of those children, but she made a point of saying that most of her clients – at-risk kids, foster children and those in very dysfunctional homes – would be unable to connect online and would not open up via that method of communication. Our friend was especially devastated knowing that the timing of the lockdown - school holidays - meant that these children were likely in already vulnerable situations and would have really benefited from a listening ear, a familiar friendly face, and the support she provides. Once again, this is just one professional expressing their sadness at the hardship caused to vulnerable people!

On p.5 of the 'Statement of Compatibility' that is attached to this Bill, says that "The measures put in place in the legislation, are to manage the broader impact on businesses, institutions, and the economy". This was the excuse the government has given to attempt to satisfy their compliance with the Human Rights Act 2019. In my opinion, the government have not satisfied a single principle contained within the Human Rights Act

2019! The issues of concern raised previously in this submission, as well as the personal, first-hand accounts of hardship and stress, would cast serious doubt over whether the measures the government have put in place, have indeed helped the broader impact on businesses, institution and the economy. The evidence is clear that the measures have in fact caused further negative impact on businesses, institutions, people's lives, and the economy, than a virus ever could.

The QLD Government are our elected representatives! They cannot be given unlimited emergency powers for a single day longer. The people of QLD are unable to hold our elected representatives to account for the damage they are causing, while they are granted emergency powers. The QLD Government must act in our best interests, ensuring that every decision they make benefits all Queenslanders. As a free, democratic society, we absolutely cannot operate under a 'dictatorship', which is what these emergency powers enable the government to be.

**Is the existence and extension of this Bill even necessary?**

As per the explanatory notes attached to this Bill, under the title of 'Policy objectives and the reasons for them', it is made very clear that a public health emergency was originally declared, due to the pandemic **potential** of the virus COVID-19. That potential has not been realised, not here in Australia, nor Globally. This is not just my personal 'opinion', it is fact.

***The World Health Organisation's published data as at 3/7/2021, reports that only 2% of all global COVID-19 cases have ended in death.*** Total global confirmed COVID-19 cases, as at 3/7/2021, are 182,319,261. The death total from these confirmed cases is 3,954,324. That is 2.17%! In Australia, our percentage is far lower, and of course, if you discount all the deaths that occurred in people who died WITH COVID-19, not FROM COVID-19, the percentage is under 0.5%. This data was collected by me from the WHO website. I am not making this up or getting it from so-called 'misinformation' websites.

**Why do the Government think that they need to extend their emergency powers for a virus that has a GLOBAL death rate (less in Australia) of less than the seasonal flu?**

This means that the PM and Premiers are enforcing destructive measures, including vaccine mandates, on 100% of the population for a virus that is only deadly for 0.5% of the population. Less than the seasonal flu! People are losing their jobs in aged care, nursing, the health care sector, and now the focus is on teachers who may lose their jobs if they don't get the jab. There is very limited safety and efficacy data on the COVID-19 shot, yet state & federal governments are pressuring, coercion, manipulating, and in some cases forces people to have it, or they lose their job, which means they will lose their financial stability for themselves and their families.

As residents of QLD, we must ask ourselves why are they promoting a fear campaign across Queensland, and Australia, as if this virus is extremely deadly and dangerous, when it is only concerning for less than 0.5% of the population? If this truly is a health emergency, why are our leaders not making cigarettes illegal, closing down every fast-food outlet, encouraging people to immediately improve their diet, exercise, take supplements, and rest to keep their immune system in top condition, so on, and so forth.

Emergency powers have never been granted for an outbreak of Influenza A, Influenza B, or other viruses that have a similar death rate, and they certainly do not need to be granted now. The people of Queensland are largely smart and responsible citizens. If they are sick, they stay home and recover. But if people are well, they must be able to move freely about, engage in meaningful employment, and enjoy life to its fullest! I implore this committee to personally consider this information as you deliberate whether our QLD Government actually need to extend their emergency powers until the end of April 2022.

Regards,  
Jena Frylink

