

Brett Tobin

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

3 July 2020

Committee Secretary
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention
Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

**Re: Submission for Inquiry into the Queensland Government's
health response to COVID-19**

I have prepared a formal submission into my experience with being quarantined for COVID-19 from 26 March 2020 to 17 April 2020 in my own house in [REDACTED] with my wife and daughter.

My experience with the quarantine process enforced on my family and I by QLD Health on 26 March 2020 has caused me to form the opinion that the quarantine process whilst well meaning, actually isolates, ostracizes and vilifies those people who through no fault of their own have either contracted COVID-19 or been in close contact with someone that has. Whilst I understand the need to quarantine people who contract COVID-19 to prevent the spread of the disease, the experience of being quarantined and unable to leave your own residence inflicts significant mental stress on those who are quarantined. QLD Health did not provide any support whatsoever for the medical, material, monetary or psychological needs of my family or myself during the entire quarantine process.

The chronology of the diagnosis of my daughter's illness and the quarantine process subsequently inflicted on my family and I follows below:

1. My daughter [REDACTED] arrived in Brisbane on 23 March 2020 after flying from Birmingham UK where she was an exchange student at Aston University. My daughter chose to return in the middle of her study period due to the impending closure of the Australian borders, as she was very concerned that she may be isolated in the UK for an extended period of time. My wife and I picked our daughter up from Brisbane Airport early in the morning and drove her to our house in [REDACTED] for her 14 day quarantine period.
2. On the morning of 24 March 2020 [REDACTED] started experiencing symptoms that she thought might be related to COVID-19 and my wife made inquiries with our local GP who arranged for [REDACTED] to visit a pathology clinic, which [REDACTED] drove to by herself in her own car and was tested later that day.
3. In the early afternoon of 26 March 2020 the test results were provided to [REDACTED] and it was confirmed that she had contracted COVID-19. She was contacted directly by QLD Health and was asked to provide the contact details for all others living in the house with her, which were my wife and I.

4. I then received a phone call from [REDACTED] from QLD Health who informed me that my wife and I would be quarantined due to [REDACTED] illness and following the phone call [REDACTED] emailed me a "Voluntary" Self-quarantine notice at 1:24pm on 26 March 2020. During the phone call [REDACTED] explained the reason for the duration of the 24 days quarantine period as being 14 days maximum incubation period followed by 10 days to clear the infection if we were infected. My wife also received a "Voluntary" Self-quarantine notice via e-mail.
5. On the morning of 16 April 2020, I received a phone call from QLD Health advising me that they had decided to extend the quarantine period for my wife and I by 14 days. I objected vigorously throughout this phone call about this decision as nobody in QLD Health had contacted either my wife or myself at any time during the quarantine period. I requested and was provided with the reference to the legislation that enabled QLD Health to take the action to increase the quarantine period. In spite of my vigorous objections I was first threatened with an enormous fine of 100 penalty units (\$13334) if I left my house for any reason and was then served with a "Mandatory" Self-Quarantine Direction via e-mail at 10:02 am on 16 April 2020. I was very upset with this process and immediately reviewed the legislation and sent my e-mail to QLD Health at 12:28 pm on 16 April 2020 in which I strongly objected to the second quarantine notice. I then commenced the process of obtaining legal representation, as it was my intention at that time to challenge the legality of the second quarantine notice. Whilst I was engaged in this task I received a phone call from QLD Health in which I advised of the steps that my wife and I had taken to isolate from our daughter during her illness. Following this phone call, I received a second e-mail at 1:49 pm on 16 April 2020 that rescinded the "Mandatory" Self-Quarantine Direction.
6. On the 19 May 2020 I made official written complaints to the office of the QLD Health Minister and the QLD Premier about the very negative experience of being quarantined for COVID-19. I followed up with another complaint on 4 June 2020, as I had not received a response at that time. I finally received a written response to my complaint on 18 June 2020 from QLD Health.

I have appended the following documents to this submission for your information. Please note that I have redacted my date of birth and address from these documents as this is privileged information protected by the Privacy Act and I formally request that this redacted information is not made public.

- 2020_03_26 Email from QLD Health re TOBIN B Self quarantine notice Response Required
- 2020_03_26 Email from QLD Health Attachment 20200326 Self quarantine notice Brett TOBIN
- 2020_03_26 Email to QLD Health re TOBIN B Self quarantine notice Response Required
- 2020_04_16 Email from QLD Health No 1 re TOBIN B Self Quarantine Direction Response Required
- 2020_04_16 Email from QLD Health No 1 Attachment TOBIN B - Self Quarantine Direction Notice
- 2020_04_16 Email to QLD Health re TOBIN B Self Quarantine Direction Response Required Detailed Response Provided Please Reply to the Issues that I have raised in this Response

- 2020_04_16 Email from QLD Health No 2 re TOBIN B Self Quarantine Direction Response Required Detailed Response Provided Please Reply to the Issues that I have raised in this Response
- 2020_06_18 Email from QLD Health re Letter from [REDACTED] Metro South Hospital and Health Service
- 2020_06_18 Email from QLD Health Attachment Letter to Mr Brett TOBIN

The attempt by QLD Health to extend quarantine by 14 days does not make any sense when the maximum incubation period for COVID-19 of 14 days is considered. It appears that QLD Health did not check that my wife and I had already been in quarantine for 24 days before imposing an extra quarantine period as the scientific evidence available for COVID-19 at that time indicated that a person infected with the virus would experience symptoms within 14 days and that the person would not be infectious 10 days after symptoms become apparent.

An excerpt from the Chief Health Officer of QLD public health direction of 27 March 2020 Self Isolation for Diagnosed Cases of COVID-19 follows:

PART 1 – DIRECTION – SELF-ISOLATION FOR DIAGNOSED CASES OF COVID-19

2. The purpose of this Part is to require persons diagnosed with COVID-19 to self-isolate in order to limit the spread of COVID-19.
3. These directions apply from 11:59pm on Friday 27 March 2020 until the end of the declared public health emergency, unless they are revoked or replaced.
4. A person who is diagnosed with COVID-19 in Queensland:
 - a. if the diagnosis is communicated to the person in a place other than where the person resides, must:
 - i. travel directly from that place to a premises that is suitable for the person to reside in and reside in that premises until clearance from self-isolation is given under clause 5; or
 - ii. travel directly to, or remain at, a hospital for medical treatment, and following treatment and discharge from the hospital, travel directly to a premises that is suitable for the person to reside in and reside in that premises until clearance from self-isolation is given under clause 5; and
 - b. any travel under clause 4(a) must be by:
 - i. private vehicle; or
 - ii. taxi or ride share with the person wearing a protective mask; and
 - c. if the diagnosis is communicated to the person in suitable premises where the person resides, must reside in that premises beginning on the day of the diagnosis and ending when clearance from self-isolation is given under clause 5; and
 - d. must not leave the premises, except:
 - i. for the purposes of obtaining essential medical care or medical supplies; or
 - ii. in the event of an emergency situation; and
 - e. must not permit any other person to enter the premises unless that other person usually lives at the premises or is living at the premises for the purpose of self-isolation, or for medical or emergency purposes.
5. A person subject to clause 4 is given clearance from self-isolation at the earlier of:
 - a. 14 days after diagnosis;
 - b. if a registered nurse or a medical practitioner from a treating Hospital and Health Service (as defined under the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* (Qld)) certifies that the person has met the 'release from isolation' criteria, including where applicable, the criteria for healthcare workers and workers in aged care facilities, as outlined in the 'Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units', as amended from time to time, available

at <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm>.

6. Certification under clause 5(b) must be in writing but is not required to be in a particular form.

This public health direction has since been superseded however it was in force at the time of our quarantine and should have been followed by QLD Health. My daughter [REDACTED] was isolated for 24 days, 10 days longer than the 14 day period stipulated in clause 5 of the public health direction as she was also given her self quarantine notice on 26 March 2020.

The term voluntary used on the quarantine notice dated 26 March 2020 was deceptive and misleading, as I was not given any right to refuse the quarantine. Also the paragraph on the second page of the form that described the enormous fine of 100 penalty units (\$13334) gave the clear impression that non-compliance with the voluntary quarantine notice would leave me liable for the fine. I do not understand why politicians in QLD have decided it is appropriate to threaten members of the public with an enormous fine when there has been significant disruption to the workforce due to COVID-19 and the ability of members of the public to pay such a fine has been significantly diminished. The threat of an enormous fine is a huge disincentive for members of the public to get tested for COVID-19 and the quantum of the fine in my opinion needs to be reconsidered. I believe that it would be far more effective for the QLD Government to work cooperatively with the public rather than continually threatening them with a big stick.

It appears to me that my family and I were caught in the transition period from one quarantine regime to the next and in the process, QLD Health attempted to apply an extraordinarily long quarantine period to my wife and I of 24 days plus 14 days for a total of 38 days which is more than 5 weeks. The scientific evidence that was available at that time regarding the incubation period for COVID-19 and the time for a patient to not be infectious after infection did not call for this extremely long quarantine period. I question whether QLD Health had proper knowledge of our initial 24 day quarantine period when they imposed the second 14 day quarantine period as I understand that the rules regarding the length of quarantine changed within QLD Health at the close of business on 26 March 2020 which was the precise day on which we received our first quarantine notice.

Whilst my family and I were in quarantine we expended additional money that we would not normally spend getting food delivered and were unable to replenish some supplies that we used in our period of isolation including rice, flour, toilet paper and pharmaceuticals for our dog who is diabetic and requires insulin and eye drops to reduce the likelihood of glaucoma. I requested assistance with this and was told in a return phone call that the assistance of the Care Army was specifically tailored for those over 70 so it appears that we fell in the cracks and through no fault of our own found ourselves isolated in our own home for an extended period of time without any contact from QLD Health or any assistance from the Care Army.

It appears to me that the general approach taken by QLD Health was to expect quarantined people to just pay extra for everything they needed without regard to their capacity to pay. This was further complicated by not being able to leave our property to post a letter to my bank that held our investments to give maturity instructions for a term deposit that matured on 1 May 2020. We needed the funds from this term deposit to pay for our living expenses as I have retired early from the workforce and did not have any wage or sick leave entitlement to fall back on when my family and I were quarantined in our own house.

A little over a week after my family and I were allowed to exit our "voluntary" self-quarantine my brother passed away in Dubai and I have spent just over 2 months having his remains and belongings returned to Brisbane. I ran into roadblocks first in Dubai and then Australia due to COVID-19 restrictions and my experience with this very stressful process has convinced me that the people making the decisions about how to respond to COVID-19 have absolutely no clue about the unintended consequences of the actions that have been taken.

A few days after my brother died the hot water system at my parent's house (who are in their 80s) ruptured and I had to arrange for an urgent replacement, which took 4 days. Later that week after I had arranged the installation of a new hot water system, my father drove through the front glass door of his local pharmacy and wrote off his car fortunately without injuring anyone. I of course had to make the insurance claim and assist my parents through this process.

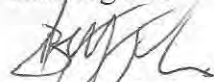
These facts above are outside the scope of this inquiry however I have included this information as background as I would not have been able to provide the support to my parents that I did after the death of my brother if I had not been successful in objecting to QLD Health's attempt to extend our isolation period by 14 days.

I would like to advise the inquiry that I am the primary person that assists my elderly parents who are in their eighties. My wife is the primary person who assists her mother who is also in her eighties. And yes we understand that they are vulnerable which is exactly why they need our assistance. As far as we can ascertain my wife and I did not contract COVID-19 from our daughter as we are in our late 50s and it would be very unlikely that we would have contracted the disease and not experienced any symptoms. We took significant precautions in our own house to protect ourselves from COVID-19 and as far as we can ascertain our daughter [REDACTED] did not pass COVID-19 onto any other person in Australia.

I would also like to advise that I only found out about this inquiry by a very indirect route through a complaint I made on 23 June 2020 to the office of Terri Butler Federal Member for Griffith who forwarded my complaint to the office of Joe Kelly State Member for Greenslopes who provided the link to this inquiry on 26 June 2020. I would have expected that I would have been advised of the existence of this inquiry much earlier as I made formal complaints to both the office of the QLD Premier and the QLD Health Minister in mid May 2020. Due to my very late discovery of the existence of this inquiry I have had to rush to prepare this submission.


I have formed the opinion that many of the steps being taken by the QLD State Government in response to COVID-19 are being driven by fear rather than science. I am not a doctor, however I have been a professional electrical engineer for nearly 4 decades now so I do have a good knowledge of the scientific process.

kind regards



Brett Tobin

[REDACTED]

From: MSPHU-EH-COVID19-NOTICES [REDACTED] 
Subject: TOBIN, B - Self quarantine notice (Response Required)
Date: 26 March 2020 at 1:24 pm
To: [REDACTED]

M

Dear Mr B TOBIN

Further to my phone call earlier today, please find attached a copy of your Voluntary Self-quarantine Notice.

Can you please confirm as soon as possible in a return email that you have received the Voluntary Self-quarantine Notice and advise whether or not you understand the information contained within the notice. Please also advise if any information in the self-quarantine notice is incorrect.

I have also attached three Commonwealth fact sheets on COVID-19 for your information.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
COVID-19 Response Team
Metro South Public Health Unit
Metro South Health
[REDACTED]

We care about you    

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20200326 -
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**Queensland
Government**

Public Health Act 2005

Public Health Emergency - Coronavirus 2019-nCoV (COVID-19)

Voluntary self-quarantine (no dependents)

I (name): Brett + Tobin DOB: 11/11

of (address): [redacted]

Ph. No: [redacted]

I acknowledge that I have been advised to quarantine myself because I have:*

- ☒ a. ~~travelled to a high risk area for the transmission of coronavirus COVID-19~~
- ☐ b. had close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus COVID-19

* strike out whichever is not applicable

I agree to quarantine myself in accordance with the Australian Government's Department of Health Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) - Isolation guidance (copy attached).

I agree that I will quarantine myself at above the address/or: [redacted]

until 17/4 /2020 (end date).



Queensland Government

- ☒ I have explained the contents of this form.
- ☒ I believe that this person understands their obligations regarding quarantine and understands how to obtain assistance in the event of ill health.

Emergency Officer name: [redacted]

Emergency Officer signature: [redacted]

Date: 26 March 2020 Time: 11:40 am/pm

I understand that if I need to leave the stated place before the end date of quarantine, I will call my local Public Health Unit (listed below) to discuss any plans prior to leaving the stated place.

Table 1. List of Queensland Public Health Units

Check Box	Public health unit	Phone #	Check Box	Public health unit	Phone #
<input type="checkbox"/>	Metro North (Brisbane North)	(07) 3624 1111	<input type="checkbox"/>	North West (Mt Isa & Gulf)	(07) 4744 7178
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Metro South (Brisbane South)	(07) 3156 4000	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunshine Coast	1300 017 190
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tropical Public Health Services (Cairns)	(07) 4226 5555	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsville	(07) 4433 6900
<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Queensland (Rockhampton)	(07) 4920 6989	<input type="checkbox"/>	West Moreton (Ipswich)	(07) 3818 4700
<input type="checkbox"/>	Darling Downs (Toowoomba)	(07) 4699 8240	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wide Bay (Bundaberg)	(07) 4303 7500
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gold Coast	(07) 5667 3200	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wide Bay (Hervey Bay)	(07) 4184 1800
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mackay	(07) 4885 5800			

What to do if another person visits me during quarantine

If you are visited by a person during quarantine (e.g. police officer, nurse etc.) ensure you advise them that you are currently under quarantine.

What to do if you get sick - If you develop symptoms:

- Quarantine yourself from other people and put on a mask if you have one.
- Call a doctor or hospital immediately to arrange urgent assessment. At the time of the call ensure that you advise the doctor or hospital of the reason for your quarantine.

Call **000** if you have serious symptoms such as difficulty breathing. Ask for an ambulance and notify the officers of the reason for your quarantine.

Anyone who has travelled from mainland China, Italy, Iran or South Korea, or who has had close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus COVID-19 needs to self-quarantine for 14 days after leaving mainland China, Italy, Iran or South Korea, or after last contact with the confirmed case. This requirement is in response to the declared public health emergency due to an outbreak of coronavirus COVID-19.

Under the *Public Health Act 2005*, emergency officers have the powers to require you to provide your name and residential address and to take certain action, including requiring you to stay at or in a stated place, or be detained by order of an emergency officer (medical) in accordance with the powers under Chapter 8, Part 7 of the *Public Health Act 2005*.

Failure to comply with a requirement or direction, or to provide information that you know is false or misleading, is an offence and you may be liable to a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units (1 penalty unit = \$133.45) for each offence.

Privacy Notice

The information collected on this form is collected by Queensland Health and Hospital and Health Services (via public health units) for the purpose of responding to a declared public health emergency under the *Public Health Act 2005* and may be shared with other government agencies for that purpose.

You are allowed to access your information. If you wish to access or correct any of the personal information on this form or discuss how it has been dealt with, please contact Queensland Health or the relevant Hospital and Health Service.

Details about how to contact Queensland Health or a Hospital and Health Service, or to learn more about how they deal with your confidential information and how you can access your information can be found at:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/health-system/hhs>

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/global/privacy>

From: Brett Tobin [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: TOBIN, B - Self quarantine notice (Response Required)
Date: 26 March 2020 at 1:42 pm
To: MSPHU-EH-COVID19-NOTICES [REDACTED]

I have received your e-mail.

Regards
Brett Tobin
[REDACTED]

On 26 Mar 2020, at 1:24 pm, MSPHU-EH-COVID19-NOTICES [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr B TOBIN

Further to my phone call earlier today, please find attached a copy of your Voluntary Self-quarantine Notice.

Can you please confirm as soon as possible in a return email that you have received the Voluntary Self-quarantine Notice and advise whether or not you understand the information contained within the notice. Please also advise if any information in the self-quarantine notice is incorrect.

I have also attached three Commonwealth fact sheets on COVID-19 for your information.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

COVID-19 Response Team
Metro South Public Health Unit
Metro South Health
[REDACTED]

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<20200326 Self quarantine notice Brett TOBIN.pdf>
<20200314 coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-close-contacts-of-a-confirmed-case_2.pdf>
<20200326 - Covid 19 What you need to know.pdf>
<COVID-19 Factsheet_Community Recovery_190320.pdf>

From: MSPHU-EH-COVID19-NOTICES [REDACTED] @
Subject: TOBIN, B - Self-Quarantine Direction, (Response Required)
Date: 16 April 2020 at 10:02 am
To: [REDACTED]

M

Dear Mr Brett Tobin

Further to my phone call earlier today, please find attached copy of your Self-quarantine Direction.

Can you please confirm as soon as possible in a return email that you have received the Self-quarantine Direction and advise whether or not you understand the information contained within the notice. Please also advise if any information in the self-quarantine notice is incorrect.

I have also attached Commonwealth fact sheets on COVID-19 for your information.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

COVID-19 Response Team
Metro South Public Health Unit
Metro South Health
[REDACTED]

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Direction from Emergency Officer
Person to Stay at a Stated Place for a Period of Time
Public Health Emergency - COVID-19 - Public Health Act, Section 362H

Self-Quarantine Direction

I, an emergency officer appointed pursuant to section 333 of the *Public Health Act 2005* (the Act), who reasonably believes the following direction is necessary to assist in containing, or responding to, the spread of COVID-19 within the community, **direct** the following person(s):



Person to Stay at a Stated Place for a Period of Time

Public Health Emergency - COVID-19 - Public Health Act, Section 362H

Self-Quarantine Direction

I, an emergency officer appointed pursuant to section 333 of the *Public Health Act 2005* (the Act), who reasonably believes the following direction is necessary to assist in containing, or responding to, the spread of COVID-19 within the community, **direct** the following person(s):

BRETT TOBIN

, of

(Name)

(D.O.B)

(Residential Address)

(Email)

(Telephone)

THE ABOVE ADDRESS

, from the time of this direction to the same time

(Address of Stated Place, if different from above)

I **direct** (additional names):

Name of family members/dependents	Date of Birth
N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A

on **30 / 04 / 2020 (end date)** (a period of 14 days), and not leave unless for the purposes of obtaining essential medical treatment or medical services or in the event of an emergency situation.

WARNING - It is an offence to fail to comply with this direction without a reasonable excuse. If you fail to comply, you may be liable to a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units (1 penalty unit = \$133.45) for each offence. An emergency officer may use necessary and reasonable force to enforce this direction.

RECOMMENDATION - During the period of this direction, you should comply with the Australian Government's Department of Health, Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Guidelines.

FOR GOVERNMENT USE ONLY

- ☒ I have explained the contents of this form.
☒ I believe that this person understands their obligations under this direction and understands how to obtain assistance in the event of ill health.

Emergency Officer name:

Signature:

Date: 16 / 04 / 2020

Time: 9:50 am

Rank and Rego No. (QPS only):

Station:

Call **000** if you have serious symptoms such as difficulty breathing. Ask for an ambulance and notify the officers of the reason for your quarantine.

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<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/health-system/hhs>

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/global/privacy>

From: Brett Tobin [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: TOBIN, B - Self-Quarantine Direction, (Response Required) - Detailed Response Provided - Please Reply to the Issues that I have raised in this Response
Date: 16 April 2020 at 12:28 pm
To: MSPHU-EH-COVID19-NOTICES [REDACTED]

I have received this self quarantine notice and note that the first self quarantine notice received on 26/3/2020 was not in compliance with section 362H of the QLD Public Health Act 2005 as the isolation period stated on that notice was 24 days instead of the period of 14 days allowed under section 362H 1 (a). I formally request a written response advising which specific clause/s of which legislation QLD Health have referred to in order to determine the isolation period of 24 days as I have been unable to locate this information either on the QLD Health website or in the QLD Public Health Act 2005.

As I advised in our earlier telephone conversation my wife and I have not been contacted by QLD Health in the period between 26/3/2020 and 16/4/2020 so it was a severe shock this morning to receive your phone call and then to get served with a second self quarantine notice. We have expended additional money that we would not normally spend getting food delivered and have been unable to replenish some supplies that we have used in our period of isolation including rice, flour, toilet paper and pharmaceuticals for our dog who is diabetic and requires insulin and eye drops to reduce the likelihood of glaucoma. I have requested assistance with this and was told in a return phone call that the assistance of the Care Army was specifically tailored for those over 70 so it appears that we fall in the cracks and through no fault of our own we find ourselves isolated in our own home for an extended period of time without any contact from QLD Health or any assistance from the Care Army.

I also have a need to post a letter to my bank Qudos with term deposit maturity instructions in the next few days as I have a term deposit maturing on 1/5/2020 that we need fund from in order to pay our bills. I cannot post this letter from my own property and also request assistance with this.

I feel that QLD Health are making this process up as they go along and in our case have failed in their duty to communicate meaningfully with people that they have instructed to remain in isolation. I am exercising my lawful rights to provide constructive criticism about the very poor process that my wife and I have been subjected to thus far so that you can improve your interactions with the public.

Regards
Brett Tobin
[REDACTED]

On 16 Apr 2020, at 10:02 am, MSPHU-EH-COVID19-NOTICES [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr Brett Tobin

Further to my phone call earlier today, please find attached copy of your Self-quarantine Direction.

Can you please confirm as soon as possible in a return email that you have received the Self-quarantine Direction and advise whether or not you understand the information contained within the notice. Please also advise if any information in the self-quarantine notice is incorrect.

I have also attached Commonwealth fact sheets on COVID-19 for your information.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

COVID-19 Response Team
Metro South Public Health Unit
Metro South Health
[REDACTED]

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[<TOBIN, B - Self Quarantine Direction Notice.pdf>](#)

[<COVID-19 Factsheet_Community Recovery_190320.pdf>](#)

[<Information for close contacts of a confirmed case DepOH Factsheet.pdf>](#)

From: MSPHU-EH-COVID19-NOTICES [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: TOBIN, B - Self-Quarantine Direction, (Response Required) - Detailed Response Provided - Please Reply to the Issues that I have raised in this Response
Date: 16 April 2020 at 1:49 pm
To: Brett Tobin [REDACTED]

M

Hi Brett,

Many thanks for the discussion and comprehensive overview of the current living situation of yourself, [REDACTED] and daughter [REDACTED]. I had a detailed discussion with one of our public health physicians and based on the information you provided, we are both satisfied, that you and [REDACTED] have both remained separate from your daughter during your quarantine period and applied appropriate precautions.

The Mandatory self-quarantine notice that was issued at 9:50am today, 16 April 2020 to yourself is now rescinded.

Please contact me on [REDACTED] if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: Brett Tobin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 April 2020 12:29 PM
To: MSPHU-EH-COVID19-NOTICES [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: TOBIN, B - Self-Quarantine Direction, (Response Required) - Detailed Response Provided - Please Reply to the Issues that I have raised in this Response

I have received this self quarantine notice and note that the first self quarantine notice received on 26/3/2020 was not in compliance with section 362H of the QLD Public Health Act 2005 as the isolation period stated on that notice was 24 days instead of the period of 14 days allowed under section 362H 1 (a). I formally request a written response advising which specific clause/s of which legislation QLD Health have referred to in order to determine the isolation period of 24 days as I have been unable to locate this information either on the QLD Health website or in the QLD Public Health Act 2005.

As I advised in our earlier telephone conversation my wife and I have not been contacted by QLD Health in the period between 26/3/2020 and 16/4/2020 so it was a severe shock this morning to receive your phone call and then to get served with a second self quarantine notice. We have expended additional money that we would not normally spend getting food delivered and have been unable to replenish some supplies that we have used in our period of isolation including rice, flour, toilet paper and pharmaceuticals for our dog who is diabetic and requires insulin and eye drops to reduce the likelihood of glaucoma. I have requested assistance with this and was told in a return phone call that the assistance of the Care Army was specifically tailored for those over 70 so it appears that we fall in the cracks and through no fault of our own we find ourselves isolated in our own home for an extended period of time without any contact from QLD Health or any assistance from the Care Army.

I also have a need to post a letter to my bank Qudos with term deposit maturity instructions in the next few days as I have a term deposit maturing on 1/5/2020 that we need fund from in order to pay our bills. I cannot post this letter from my own property and also request

assistance with this.

I feel that QLD Health are making this process up as they go along and in our case have failed in their duty to communicate meaningfully with people that they have instructed to remain in isolation. I am exercising my lawful rights to provide constructive criticism about the very poor process that my wife and I have been subjected to thus far so that you can improve your interactions with the public.

Regards
Brett Tobin

On 16 Apr 2020, at 10:02 am, MSPHU-EH-COVID19-NOTICES [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr Brett Tobin

Further to my phone call earlier today, please find attached copy of your Self-quarantine Direction.

Can you please confirm as soon as possible in a return email that you have received the Self-quarantine Direction and advise whether or not you understand the information contained within the notice. Please also advise if any information in the self-quarantine notice is incorrect.

I have also attached Commonwealth fact sheets on COVID-19 for your information.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

COVID-19 Response Team
Metro South Public Health Unit
Metro South Health

<image001.png>

[<image002.jpg>](#)

[<image003.jpg>](#)

[<image004.jpg>](#)

[<image005.jpg>](#)

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<Information for close contacts of a confirmed case DepOH Factsheet.pdf>

From: MetroSouthHealth [REDACTED] 
Subject: Letter from [REDACTED], Metro South Hospital and Health Service
Date: 18 June 2020 at 10:22 am
To: [REDACTED]

M

Good morning Mr Tobin,

Please find attached letter from [REDACTED], Metro South Hospital and Health Service in response to your emails to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services.

Kind regards,

Office of the Chief Executive

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

Metro South Health

We care about you



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Letter to Mr
Brett T...IN.PDF



Metro South
Health

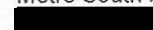
C-ECTF-20/8019

Enquiries to:



Metro South Public Health Unit

Telephone:



Our Ref:

K-CF20/729

Date:

9 June 2020

Mr Brett Tobin

CAMP HILL QLD 4152

Email: 

Dear Mr Tobin

Thank you for your emails dated 16 April 2020, 19 May 2020 and 4 June 2020 regarding the circumstances around the issuing of a voluntary self-quarantine notice to you and your wife on the 26 March for a period of 24 days.

I apologise for any inconvenience this has caused you both. Please be assured that the sole purpose of issuing self-quarantine (and self-isolation) notices was and still is, to help reduce the spread of Coronavirus to other people.

I can advise that up until the evening of 26 March 2020, all self-quarantine notices issued to close (including household) contacts in Queensland were of a voluntary nature. This was based on legal advice provided to the Queensland Department of Health and a framework provided to Public Health Units across the State to implement. A legislative amendment occurred whereby a new section 362H of the Public Health Act 2005 was introduced which created a specific provision for a person to stay at a place and introduced the mandatory timeframe of 14 days. Public Health Units across Queensland were required to transition from issuing voluntary self-quarantine notices to mandatory quarantine directions from the 26 March 2020 from 1830 hours.

According to the Commonwealth Guidelines on COVID-19, a COVID-19 positive individual is considered infectious for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms or when they present for testing (in the absence of symptoms or ill-defined symptoms). Therefore, any household contact living with that individual would need to be quarantined for another 14 days after the case had been cleared. On advice from the medical team at Metro South Public Health Unit, it was decided to issue the voluntary self-quarantine notice for 24 days to household contacts. Whilst this could have put household contacts under enormous inconvenience, it was done in the best interest of the family members and the community at large.

Queensland Health is constantly striving to ensure that individuals with the infection, their families and the community they interact with are kept safe in the face of the global pandemic.

If you want to discuss this matter further, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Metro South Hospital and Health Service