

Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022

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Submitter Comments:

The ongoing use of emergency powers in Queensland is unnecessary and should be allowed to expire on 31st October 2022. Furthermore, such powers should only be exercised by a minister, who is a democratically elected representative of the people and who is accountable to the people of Queensland. The Chief Health Officer is neither democratically elected nor accountable to the people of Queensland. Additionally, the use of broadly worded phrases within the bill is concerning. Phrases such as "serious risk" have not been defined which allows the Chief Health Officer to solely determine the meaning of the phrase and implement provisions at will. Moreover, the bill's proposal to extend emergency power within corrective facilities for an additional year is unreasonable. Finally, the shroud of secrecy governing the Queensland government's consultations regarding this bill, along with the proposed new environmental laws are highly concerning for the residents of Queensland and should be scrutinised.