

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

Submission No:

56

Submitted by:

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

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Attachments:

Submitter Comments:



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16 September 2022

Committee Secretary  
Health and Environment Committee  
Parliament House Brisbane  
Via email: [hec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:hec@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee Secretary,

**Re: RACGP Queensland submission - Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Health and Environment Committee for the opportunity to provide input into the Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022.

The RACGP is Australia's largest professional general practice organisation, representing over 40,000 members working in or toward a specialty career in general practice, including over 8,000 members across Queensland.

The RACGP is the voice of general practitioners (GPs) in our growing cities and throughout regional, rural, and remote Australia. For more than 60 years, the RACGP has supported the backbone of Australia's health system by setting the standards for education and practice and advocating for better health and wellbeing for all Australians.

The RACGP develop resources and guidelines to support GPs in providing their patients with world-class healthcare and help with the unique issues that affect their practices. We are a point of connection for GPs serving communities in every corner of the country.

General Practice is a critical element to the COVID-19 response. The community depends heavily on their primary care GP for their ongoing health management, none less so regarding COVID-19. GPs around Australia and across Queensland have stood up to the challenges that COVID-19 has presented. In addition to maintaining regular services for their patients during the pandemic, in most jurisdictions GPs have also been responsible for over 50% of all COVID-19 vaccinations and a similar number of COVID-19 PCR tests.

The community will continue endure further waves of COVID-19. COVID-19 will continue to effect communities in variable ways. General practices need to be able to respond quickly to changing public health situations, and general practices need to be supported by the Queensland Government to make decisions according to current national, state, and local situations.

The RACGP is also calling on the Committee to consider General Practice in its review of the Bill and with any changes to the *Public Health Act 2005* it is pertinent to include provision for clear and timely



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messaging from the Queensland Government supporting general practice to be able to make determinations in their practices regarding mask wearing and staff vaccinations.

Also, to enable general practitioners to safely support their patients, staff, and the community to respond to the ongoing risk of COVID-19 and future public health emergencies general practice requires pre-emptive and ongoing access to PPE supplies (masks, gowns, face shields etc) to protect themselves and their patients and thus play an effective essential role in the required response.

General Practice has contributed a significant component of the health service response in helping to minimise the effects of COVID-19 on patients and the community across Queensland, and would continue to be so, should this Bill give due regard to needs of General Practice.

Should you wish to discuss this submission further, please contact Mr James Flynn, State Manager RACGP Queensland, on [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

**Dr Bruce Willett**

Chair, RACGP Queensland and RACGP Vice-President