

22 December 2020

Committee Secretary
Health and Environment Committee
Parliament House
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Brisbane QLD 4000



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Dear Committee Secretary,

Thank you for providing AMA Queensland with the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020* ("the Bill").

AMA Queensland wishes to congratulate the Queensland Government on the work done to manage the COVID-19 pandemic in Queensland. Queensland is fortunate to have had very low numbers of community transmission, with only a few instances where Queensland's efforts were compromised. Regardless of that, Queensland acted quickly in enforcing lockdown restrictions and closing borders to the states with high community transmission rates, leading to no community transmission in Queensland to date. While the act of closing the borders was highly criticised by other states and territories, the Queensland Government continued to act in the best interests of the health of Queenslanders and follow the CHO's evidence-based medical advice.

AMA Queensland recognises that the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over and complacency still poses a significant risk to the Queensland community and this lesson was learnt from other large scale outbreaks. However, the planned rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in 2021 makes AMA Queensland optimistic that restrictions will continue to lift, dependant on the CHO's advice. AMA Queensland is overall supportive of this Bill to extend the Chief Health Officer's powers until 30 September 2021 and extend the amendments to the Mental Health Act and the Public Health Act (hotel quarantine). The virus has proven to be unpredictable and easily spread, therefore it is the opinion of AMA Queensland that it is in Queensland's best interest to extend the CHO's powers until September 2021.

Thank you again for providing AMA Queensland with the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020*.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Dale".

Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
AMA Queensland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Perry".

Professor Chris Perry
President
AMA Queensland