

**Health and Environment Committee**

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**From:** Brent Panting [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 January 2021 3:59 PM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER EXTRAORDINARY CONVID 19 POWERS

**Categories:** Submission

To Whom It May Concern

The extra ordinary powers that were given to the CHO needs to be allowed to lapse and not be extended. These type of powers should only be given to an elected Minister who then accountable to the Parliament and the people of Queensland especially when freedom of movement and other human rights are being restricted or taken away such as locking up people against their will in quarantine.

The CHO role should be restricted to giving medical advise to the Government and not making the rules about impact on the local economy or other such matters. The CHO is a public servant and its not her role to make or issue public policy especially on the economy where she has no expertise. Thats is what Governments are elected to do. The excuse the state needs an instrument to extend the current arrangement is poor public policy.

Appointing a special Minister of State for Queensland's COVID 19 and temporarily extending the size of the cabinet budget review committee to include the special Minister of State would be a much better arrangement. It would enable the Government to develop and be accountable for its COVID 19 response especially all on economic matters and any limitations it may decide to impose on limiting any individuals human rights. This would include any include any medical advise from the CHO.

This would also enable the CHO to stay focussed on her other public health responsibilities and not be diverted away from her primary role of not having to make public policy decisions regarding CONVID 19 for the Government.

Regards

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