

Committee Secretary
Health and Environment Committee
Parliament House
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BRISBANE QLD 4000

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To whom it may concern

I am writing to you as a concerned member of the community, wife of a small business owner and mother of two young children in opposition to the proposed Bill - ***Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020***.

I summarise below my concerns and recommendations under each of the following key matters:

1. **Mask Mandates**
2. **Lockdowns**
3. **Education and Advice on Building a Strong Immune System**

Mask Mandates

I am extremely concerned about the government's handling of the coronavirus. The measures taken regarding lockdowns and mask mandates, are not based on science, in fact there are several studies which show that mask wearing not only doesn't protect you from a virus, it can be harmful for mask wearers. Links to studies and relevant extracts below:

[Universal Masking in Hospitals in the Covid-19 Era \(nejm.org\)](#) :

"We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection."

"It is also clear that masks serve symbolic roles. Masks are not only tools, they are also talismans that may help increase health care workers' perceived sense of safety, well-being, and trust in their hospitals. Although such reactions may not be strictly logical, we are all subject to fear and anxiety, especially during times of crisis. One might argue that fear and anxiety are better countered with data and education than with a marginally beneficial mask"

[Facemasks and similar barriers to prevent respiratory illness such as COVID-19: A rapid systematic review | medRxiv](#)

"The evidence is not sufficiently strong to support widespread use of facemasks as a protective measure against COVID-19. However, there is enough evidence to support the use of facemasks for short periods of time by particularly vulnerable individuals when in transient higher risk situations."

[Do facemasks protect against COVID-19? - Isaacs - 2020 - Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health - Wiley Online Library](#)

"The public might wear masks to avoid infection or to protect others. During the 2009 pandemic of H1N1 influenza (swine flu), encouraging the public to wash their hands reduced the incidence of infection significantly whereas wearing facemasks did not.⁵ There is no good evidence that facemasks protect the public against infection with respiratory viruses, including COVID-19"

[Coronavirus: Face masks could increase risk of infection, medical chief warns | The Independent | The Independent](#)

"Members of the public could be putting themselves more at risk from contracting coronavirus by wearing face masks, one of England's most senior doctors has warned.

Jenny Harries, deputy chief medical officer, said the masks could "actually trap the virus" and cause the person wearing it to breathe it in.

"For the average member of the public walking down a street, it is not a good idea" to wear a face mask in the hope of preventing infection, she added."

It is clear that a mask mandate is nothing but symbolic, and should not be globally applied and mandated on individuals. Mask wearing is uncomfortable for many people who suffer from sinus, asthma, anxiety or other medical conditions and it is not fair to alienate these people by creating a society of mask-shamers. I myself have suffered from chronic sinusitis for my entire life, and do not want to develop another sinus infection. I cannot wear masks without having trouble breathing. And in the past few days, I have received shameful comments/ looks, refusal of entry to many places, because people are not informed that I have a medical condition, and even if I tell them, entry has still been refused. Because of this, my anxiety is skyrocketing, I don't want to leave the house and feel like I am unable to properly function in society. If this continues, this experience will only worsen. It is creating a society that promotes discrimination, which is not what Australians stand for.

I am begging you to please make masks optional – if people want to wear them, then those who feel more comfortable wearing them, will wear them. And those who can't, won't wear them. By ensuring it is optional, you provide people with a choice based on their own personal circumstances. They can complete the risk assessment and make the decision for ourselves. We live in a free country, and a 'mandate' demanding people to do something that is not their best interests is a violation of basic human rights.

Measures to prevent the spread can be effectively managed through hand washing and social distancing, where possible.

Lockdowns

Regarding lockdowns, never in the history of the living world has a government locked down healthy people and prevented them from living their lives. These ongoing lockdowns create anxiety, depression and ongoing angst in all of us, and no confidence in our future. My husband's small

business has been locked down twice, and we are concerned that this government will continue to enforce lockdowns based on the smallest of thresholds. The lockdown this past week was due to one case!? From a more contagious strain, but not more deadly? When did it become appropriate to use case numbers to define a pandemic and make blanket decisions to destroy people's lives? We cannot continue to live like this. We need to get on with our lives. The better approach is to invest time and resources in the vulnerable, protect them from the virus and allow healthy people to get on with their lives. Asymptomatic carriers are not the spreaders of the disease, we should be encouraging people with actual symptoms to stay home, rather than locking up healthy people. A study of ten million people in China shows that people without symptoms were not the spreaders of disease.

[Asymptomatic transmission of covid-19 | The BMJ](#)

"It's also unclear to what extent people with no symptoms transmit SARS-CoV-2. The only test for live virus is viral culture. PCR and lateral flow tests do not distinguish live virus. No test of infection or infectiousness is currently available for routine use.⁶⁷⁸ As things stand, a person who tests positive with any kind of test may or may not have an active infection with live virus, and may or may not be infectious."

"A city-wide prevalence study of almost 10 million people in Wuhan found no evidence of asymptomatic transmission.¹⁶ Coughing, which is a prominent symptom of covid-19, may result in far more viral particles being shed than talking and breathing, so people with symptomatic infections are more contagious, irrespective of close contact.¹⁷ On the other hand, asymptomatic and presymptomatic people may have more contacts than symptomatic people (who are isolating), underlining the importance of hand washing and social distancing measures for everyone."

Furthermore, there has been ongoing question regarding the reliability of the tests that are being used to diagnose Covid-19. Refer below:

[COVID19 PCR Tests are Scientifically Meaningless – Bulgarian Pathology Association \(bpa-pathology.com\)](#)

"Though the whole world relies on RT-PCR to "diagnose" Sars-Cov-2 infection, the science is clear: they are not fit for purpose"

"Lockdowns and hygienic measures around the world are based on numbers of cases and mortality rates created by the so-called SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR tests used to identify "positive" patients, whereby "positive" is usually equated with "infected. But looking closely at the facts, the conclusion is that these PCR tests are meaningless as a diagnostic tool to determine an alleged infection by a supposedly new virus called SARS-CoV-2."

Without truly understanding the intergenerational long term impact of lockdowns and business closures, and a test that is being used inappropriately to justify the lockdowns, we need to consider an alternate approach that does not require an endless cycle of locking healthy people up in their homes. A practical approach is required, which considers the long-term impacts on the entire population resulting from lockdowns. Has this intergenerational cost of life assessment even been completed by any government? The population of Australia is owed an explanation as to why

'lockdowns' have been adopted as the government's primary response, when the WHO themselves has stated they should not be adopted.

Education and Advice on Building a Strong Immune System

Please start informing/ educating the public on the proactive measures that can help to build healthy immune systems – eating healthy, plenty of exercise, vitamin C and vitamin D. These are all measures people should be adopting to help create a strong immune system which will help to fight off a virus. A virus dies with a healthy host.

I would greatly appreciate if the Queensland government could strongly consider the above recommendations as I am concerned about our future along with many fellow queenslanders who are afraid to speak up.

Kind regards,

Miranda Tester and Ashley Tester

Residents of [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]