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To: hec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Content expires Jan 19, 2021

Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020

Jan 12, 2021, 7:23:53 PM

Dear Committee Secretary, Health and Environment Committee,

I oppose the extension of the below mentioned amendments made to the Public Health Act 2005 in response to COVID-19.

- the Governor-in-Council to extend the declared public health emergency for up to 90 days (*Public Health (Declared Public Health Emergencies) Amendment Act 2020*, which received assent on 7 February 2020);
- increased powers for emergency officers and the Chief Health Officer to limit, or respond to, the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland (*Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act 2020*, which received assent on 19 March 2020);
- the chief executive to delegate their powers to the Chief Health Officer or a person with expertise or experience in public health issues and improving the operation of the provisions of emergency officers (medical) to support the Queensland Government's response to COVID-19 (*Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020*, which received assent on 25 May 2020); and
- a person to be required to enter hotel quarantine at their own cost (*Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2020*, which received assent on 22 June 2020).

Whilst I appreciate the public health advice and efforts of the CHO Dr Jeannette Young during this period of great difficulty, I do believe that COVID-19 and the effect it is having on the people of QLD is a complex issue, stretching far beyond just a medical concern.

With all due respect, the CHO is a GP with an administrative background. She is not equipped to be making governmental decisions that will continue to inadvertently affect people's mental and physical well being, which will ultimately go on to crippling the economy.

The partnership between Premier Palaszczuk and Dr Young has taken a reckless and knee jerk approach to COVID-19, with no regard to the long term effects it will have on the health of the state and its people.

I strongly object to the extension of increased powers for the CHO Dr Jeannette Young, who is vastly inexperienced for a role of this magnitude.

Regards,

Gemma Yates-Round
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