

**Health and Environment Committee**

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**From:** Ira Winston [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 January 2021 2:23 PM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020

**Categories:** Submission

By Email: [hec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:hec@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Good Morning Committee

Re:

[Public Health and Other Legislation \(Extension of Expiring Provisions\) Amendment Bill 2020](#)

I wish to make a submission to be considered by the Committee which has been given the task of preparing the necessary public consultation as to whether Dr. Young should have her extraordinary powers extended.

I respectfully submit that she should not and that the Government become more functionally accountable for the actions they have taken and that the demonstrable over-reach by the current Premier be subdued by curtailing her actual or perceived reliance of the Chief Medical Officer's opinion and or dictums, depending on the situation at issue.

I further submit that a multi-disciplinary, all party and independently chaired committee, be established to act as advisors to not only the Premier but also her Cabinet, so the risk or perceived risk of a dictatorial attitude is dispelled where matters of the COVID-19 Pandemic are concerned. Too often has the plight of generally poor, frail, or those without substantial advocacy or personal and or powerful standing in the community, been treated way too harshly because of an unreasonable reliance on the attitude of just one person. So many people have been forced to suffer at the hands of the Premier, her CHO, and the Health Department, generally because, for whatever obvious reason, no one in power has the good sense, compassion, and or the ability to make reasonable decisions in respect of individuals who have acute and pressing needs, whilst still providing equitable care for the greater public.

The number of individuals who have suffered unreasonably at the hands of this government because it was stated, by the Premier, that the CHO has absolute power to make decisions, globally and individually which affect all citizens of this State, as well as the economy, is way too excessive. Instances like that poor young lady who was paraded for the Media in full HAZMAT regalia when she was trying to bid her Father goodbye was an outrageous and totally unjustified abuse of power. There was not and could not have been even the slightest risk that this poor woman had contracted the C-19 virus and yet she was made to suffer abominably by the Premier and her CHO so they could demonstrate the level of power they possessed. Likewise, the people suffering from or dying from cancer who suffered unreasonably at the hands of the CHO. The Nurse who flew from the other side of the world to care for her

[REDACTED] mother in a rural setting was made to wait a further two weeks, despite so many tests which were returned with a negative result. The food served to people imprisoned in hotels on Christmas day, as well as on other ordinary days was abominable. NO ONE seemed to have the capacity to coordinate anything in a decent and humane way and this is not what Queenslanders signed up for.

Queenslanders, one and all, are grateful for the supreme effort made by Dr. Young and many hard-working Health Department Public Servants. Most have been exceptional, some, however, sadly, have been brutal in their approach to people needing clarification and or assistance. No one is perfect but the level of imperfection can be minimized by judicious oversight. The time has come, therefore, when the absolute power vested in Dr Young or any future CHO is reduced to a manageable and far more accountable level.

Sadly, I, like so many, only discovered this opportunity to voice an opinion at the very last moment. There has been NO obvious publicity about this review and there needs to be because the public has grown weary of dictatorial governments who seem only self-interested in maintaining a strong sense of autocratic control over the electorate.

The Premier chose to run a substantial fear campaign to ensure she was returned to government and she was extraordinarily successful. Now it is time for her to become a true leader and remember that authority doesn't mean the outright use of power if she does not intend to cause growth.

As an individual and as a growing number of concerned Queenslanders, I believe the CHO has done all she can as an individual with supreme power. She is not elected by the people and therefore is not empowered by the people to dictate how we should live. We appreciate her effort and her ability, but we do not appreciate her absolute privilege of power granted in a state of panic.

It is Time for a responsible, eclectic, and effective group to oversee and contribute to the efficacy of decisions concerning us all as we work through the final stage of this pandemic. Too many have suffered unreasonably because only one person has the power to make a decision that absolutely affects the lives of all Queenslanders as well as all other members of our great nation.

Queensland is NOT an island and should NOT be treated like one. It is a vital part of Australia and should act as a member of this great nation, not a spoilt or spiteful sibling. Labor governments around Australia have proven to be more self-interested than being a government for the people. The reduction of absolute power and autocracies tend to level the playing field to make life far more equitable.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to policy in Queensland. I hope sincerely that you who consider this, my submission, do so as a reasonable and responsible group of Queenslanders who really want what is actually best for us all.

I am sincere

Ira Winston

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