

**To whom it concerns,**

I am writing to appeal that the request for extension of powers granted to our government under the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Act 2020 requesting an extension for the An Act to amend the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020, the Mental Health

Act 2016, the Public Health Act 2005 and the Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act 2020 for particular purposes, not be approved.

I have recently become concerned about increasing the power given to those in government working for the people of QLD after witnessing a vast overreaction to 1 case of a "UK" strain of coronavirus that led to a 3 day lockdown. I find that quite conflicting in contrast to the 14 cases linked to the detention centre cluster back in August 2020, however we were still allowed to congregate a large amount of people at the AFL stadiums. I am grateful that we were in a position to host such an event, but if this virus was at a peak of growing concern this would have not been appropriate or a priority.

It has been 8 months with no deaths and limited cases. This 3-day lockdown imposed for one case has a very different merit to the original idea regurgitated to the Australian public that any form of lockdown was to flatten a curve. This was understood and the Australian public agreed, as we understand this virus is highly contagious and we do not wish to overload our hospitals.

My concern is that these powers are being extradited without anyone taking into consideration for the secondary effects these lockdowns generate. Even the World Health Organisation along with various other doctors expressed their concerns on lockdowns back in October 2020. They deemed it 'punishing' on the public, and has had an overwhelming impact on the mental health of those in lockdowns. It may be presumptuous to state that I do believe the Queensland Health department would have access to data that supports the increased suicide, substance abuse, domestic violence and child abuse, throughout these lockdowns and yet nothing has been done.

**So, the question I address to you Queensland Government is what is your end goal or plan?**

Are you going to be transparent and let the public know that your proposed plan is to have zero cases in the community? Because if that's the case then I am quite worried about who or which medical experts are giving you the advice and strategies that you are enforcing on the people of Queensland. As I am confident that most accredited epidemiologist experts would and will tell you, such a desired concept would not be achievable with a highly contagious virus such as COVID-19. I been observing over the past 10 months the many double standards when it comes to these policies and mandates; for example large scaled events are to thrive and small business owners are to shut, the continuation of bottle shops remaining open whilst gyms are forced to close and the separation of family/loved ones in times of death or celebration but celebrities are exempted because of filming.

**So, where do we go from here?**

My suggestion for this question is as follows:

- We can continue to have face masks/face shields on our person, but it is not mandatory to wear them. There were also a number of reports from our own media debunking the wearing of masks in mass, exposed conditions (Channel 9 published a report approx. 9months ago)
- Continue to have sanitisers in public venues, gatherings etc.
- Promote hand hygiene and how to sustain a healthy immunity
- Continue COVID-19 Tracking QR codes in public areas/venues
- Keep the vulnerable safe (COVID testing for employees, in nursing homes, hospitals etc.)
- Fogging of business if necessary

So far, these procedures have worked over the past 10 months and it is time to let people live. It is time to rebuild the economy and move forward. To continue these extreme lockdowns will only exacerbate the problem and contribution to the division of this state and country, which I would hope wasn't the intention of our Government.

The facts gathered, from all the statistics and information released by the Australian Government is that you have survival rate of 99.97%, it is highly contagious, children are more likely to be immune, most people are a-symptomatic and we have only had 909 deaths, 28,634 cases in nation with a population of 25,649,985 million people. When calculated that equals to a death rate of 0.03%, this is even less in Queensland.

The conclusion that is being drawn, and is of worry is that the extension of powers is more about bureaucracy and less about the safety and well-being of the nation's public. Extending these powers will have a grave impact on the whole state and it will have repercussions for years to come.

Sincerely,

Yasmin Cacciotti

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