

To hec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Committee Secretary
Health & Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Re: Public Health and Other Legislation [Extension of Expiring Provisions] Amendment Bill 2020. The Bill extends the expiry dates of the provisions and amendments in the legislation to support the Queensland Government's health response to COVID-19, to extend the provisions for a further six months until the end of September 2021 and also aligns the expiry dates for all the amendments made to Health portfolio legislation.

Submission	Submission to Health and Environment Committee to support extension of the expiry dates of the provision for a further six months.
Closing date and time	Wednesday, 13 January 2021
From	Irene Henley
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The COVID-19 virus came upon the world and Queensland so fast, the COVID-19 virus was not stable, it was not consistent and was constantly changing. Since Feb 2020 we have seen so much change in the world.

Here in Australia the absence of consistent messages from Federal Government and the difficulties in keeping the Federal Government accountable, our Queensland Government is the leader for the people of Queensland.

We are not only working in health to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, we are now working with businesses, companies, corporations, community groups, associations, families, people etc as they all are now health sites.

- √ They all have priorities and most of them contribute toward containment of the clinical crisis that COVID-19 pandemic presents.
- √ They all are striving to keep their community safe and contribute to Queensland community
- √ Government ensures our hospitals have all they need to deliver services in response to demands that the COVID-19 pandemic presents.
- √ During the COVID-19 pandemic none of us can exist in a bubble any more. The boundaries of companies, corporation communities, shareholders, customers, people have changed as we ensure the alignment of health protocols are achieved.

Queensland Government is balancing the ever-changing health and safety guidelines with economic demands, with the different views and opinions in the community. Our Queensland Government economic recovery and consultation, liaison and partnership to a broader community is including businesses, companies, corporation, community groups, association, families, people.

In these contexts, the continuation of the role of the Chief Medical Officer and Emergency Officers is more critical now than ever before as outlined above. We are all learning about epidemiology of the virus, COVID-19 pandemic has not only raised awareness and consciousness of health for all PEOPLE but has exposed fault lines and gaps in our infrastructure and support systems that demand our attention.

COVID-19 is widening the collective view of health in our ecosystem. We are now seeing companies etc employing Chief Medical Officer to protect the business, health of employees, citizens, the community they function in, this is the inspirational trend that we are seeing in our society. The drive to change boundaries in connecting together whilst being independent. New models of business. Models of collective communication. The drive for greater Education, raising awareness, addressing vaccination hesitancy, providing safe and equitable access are some of the new horizons that we face.

In these contexts there is also greater support in monitoring and managing the mental health of workers, communities, families, people as they are experiencing unprecedented lack of control over their lives, unprecedented levels of anxiety and depression.

Our Chief Medical Officer and her team, our emergency officers, their teams and services have all met the challenges this past year and we now need to continue this leadership into the future. Our Chief Medical Officer knows the complexity of health care from many perspectives and this continuity is vital for our health and economic recovery.

Therefore, to enhance all of the above and the quality of services provided to the public whilst achieving the mission of Health Service mission, I support the Extension to 30 September 2021 and recommend this extension should be for another 12 months.

Kind Regards
Irene Henley FACMHN FIML