Hon Steven Miles MP
Premier of Queensland
By email: premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

cc: Hon Shannon Fentiman MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services
and Minister for Women
By email: health@ministerial.qld.gov.au

7th May 2024

Dear Premier,

Our organisation, Australians for Science and Freedom (ASF), is deeply disturbed by the ad-hominem attack visited upon Queensland's Chief Health Officer (CHO), Dr John Gerrard, for his alleged 'litany of false and uninformed statements about COVID'. This attack culminates with a call for Dr Gerrard's resignation.

Dr Gerrard is a highly experienced and respected clinician who became CHO at a time when Queensland Health was in turmoil, and his performance in steadying the ship has been admirable. He has been a consistent voice of reason in a sea of confusion, and has guided Queensland safely through a difficult period in the COVID era.

We note with concern that the abovementioned attack is seemingly being orchestrated by members of the Global Health Network, which is in turn led by the Global Climate Foundation, an international lobby group that has no business interfering with Queensland Health policy. We are alarmed that an organisation representing largely overseas interests should deem it appropriate to demand Dr Gerrard's resignation. To our mind this is a direct attack on state sovereignty, which is totally unacceptable.

We note with consternation that the material being put forward by the Global Health Network as justification for its allegations consist overwhelmingly of selective media sound-bites, each of which is often no more than a couple of words devoid of context. There is little substantive material within the Network's open letter. Its attack is best described as a witch hunt.

The appropriate place to voice concern with the performance of health bureaucrats and promote discussion about health policy is within the scientific arena. The open letter and its attachments are short on scientific detail and claim certitudes on matters where there are in fact widely differing opinions.

This attack on Dr Gerrard is anti-democratic and without justification, and reeks of political opportunism. As an Australian organisation founded upon the

Enlightenment principles of scientific inquiry and individual freedom, we strongly condemn this attack on Dr Gerrard. We hope you will join us in doing so.

Sincerely

Australians for Science and Freedom