

# Covid vaccine mandate 'unlawful' for Queensland emergency services, court rules

Police and ambulance workers given unlawful directions to get vaccinated or face potential disciplinary action, supreme court finds

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Covid-19 [vaccine](#) mandates for [Queensland](#) police and ambulance workers were made unlawfully, the state's supreme court has found.

The court on Tuesday delivered its judgments in three lawsuits

brought by 86 parties against Queensland's police ambulance services for their directions to workers issued in 2021 and 2022.

The judgments did not make a ruling or attempt to make a decision about the transmissibility of a particular variant of Covid or the efficacy of a particular vaccine.

The prior directions required emergency service workers to receive Covid vaccines and booster shots or face potential disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

The court found the police commissioner, Katarina Carroll, failed to give proper consideration to human rights relevant to the decision to issue the vaccine mandate.

The former Department of [Health](#) director general Dr John Wakefield was unable to prove he issued the vaccine mandate under an implied term of the employment agreements for ambulance service workers.

As a result, both vaccine mandates were found by the court to be “unlawful” and to have no effect.

The court also found the directions limited the human rights of workers because they were required to undergo a medical procedure without full consent but it was reasonable in all the circumstances.

The senior judge administrator, Glenn Martin, said the police and ambulance services were trying to prevent their employees from suffering infection, serious illness and life-changing health consequences.

“The balance between the importance of the purpose of the limitation and the importance of preserving the human right ... is complicated by the fact that these directions were given in what was, by any measure, an emergency,” he said.