



Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2021

MOTION

Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (4.01 pm): I rise to support the government motion that this House endorses the mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for all workers in Queensland health care. As a volunteer ambo, I had to get vaccinated—no problem. I only just sat down with the assistant commissioner in North Queensland the other day—99 per cent of the ambulance staff up there are already vaccinated. The shadow minister for health claims to be a nurse. I ask: does the member back vaccinations? Does she back the science or does she back NPAQ, the false association that has been absolutely trying to question the science? This is so wrong.

Healthcare workers across the world have died. I ask the question. The Leader of the Opposition has just left the House but he cannot actually say the words. Does he back mandatory—

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is against the convention of this House to make reference to members who may not be here temporarily. We do not do it with other members—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member. If you had given me half a second more, I was going to say the same thing. The convention is as the member for Maroochydore has suggested. I ask you to withdraw those statements.

Mr HARPER: I withdraw. We have lived and dealt with this global pandemic now for 18 months. There is light at the end of the tunnel and that light is vaccinations. Queensland and my home town of Townsville has fared incredibly well during this global pandemic with our economy booming. The reason for this is that we followed the health advice of the Chief Health Officer. Those on the other side are not standing up in their communities and getting their communities vaccinated. We are doing all the heavy lifting. They are doing nothing. The LNP are not listening to the science. Do they back vaccinations? Do they back the science? Do they back it?

Opposition members: Yes!

Mr HARPER: Well, get your leader to come out and say it! Who could forget the former leader of the opposition—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr HARPER: I take her interjection—who called for the borders to be opened 64 times last year? It seems they have not learnt their lesson—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Nanango will cease her interjections.

Mr HARPER:—because they will not listen to the health advice when it comes to mandatory vaccines for our health workers. Our amazing healthcare workers have been on the front line dealing with COVID since the beginning of this pandemic. They have helped to keep Queenslanders, as always,

safe and have looked after those who are sick. They are not going to put themselves at risk of getting sick either. That is why they are vaccinated. I am really interested in what the member for Mudgeeraba is going to get up and say. Does she back the health advice? Does she back vaccines?

Ms Bates: Yes.

Mr HARPER: I want to hear the Leader of the Opposition say that as well.

Mr Mickelberg: He just said it!

Mr HARPER: No, he did not actually say it.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Buderim, that is uncalled for. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr HARPER: He did not say it. We know that the member for Mudgeeraba is a member of NPAQ who continue to question the science behind vaccines. This is a disgrace. We need everyone to roll up their sleeves and get vaccinated and we need all sides of politics to get behind the push. The member for Mudgeeraba cannot give a simple yes or no answer as to whether she supports the health worker vaccine mandate and neither can the Leader of the Opposition.

(Time expired)