




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2021

MOTION

Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.23 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Minister for Health supporting the position of the AHPPC requiring COVID-19 vaccination for all Queensland Health workers as a condition of employment, but let us be clear: we are only here speaking about this issue because the state government are seeking to use it for their own selfish political reasons. We are here debating this motion because of the failings of Queensland's own vaccine-hesitant Premier—who through her own words and her own actions created the wave of COVID vaccine hesitancy that Queensland is now afflicted by.

Through their unbecoming and politically motivated attacks over recent weeks, the government are seeking to distract from their failure to get Queenslanders vaccinated. This motion and the state government's disingenuous attacks on the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow minister for health are all about distancing the state government from the fact that they have failed to support and adequately roll out a COVID vaccine program for Queenslanders across the state. It is through their actions and their comments that the Premier and her ministers have created the very problem that they are now trying to shift responsibility from.

Yesterday we heard from the Minister for Small Business, who sought to attack me for not supporting the vaccination against COVID-19. Evidently, the minister is incapable of even getting her facts straight before she comes in here and starts her pathetic little political games. For the record, I support COVID-19 vaccination and I encourage every Queenslander to get vaccinated as a priority. I also support the AHPPC statement in relation to mandatory vaccination of healthcare workers, and that is why I ignored the Premier's anti-vax fearmongering about AstraZeneca and I got vaccinated with the only COVID-19 vaccine available to me as a person under 40 at the time—as did the member for Kawana and the member for Bonney. I got vaccinated with AstraZeneca at the first opportunity because I wanted to demonstrate leadership by example for my community—leadership that has been so sadly lacking from the vaccine-hesitant Premier who has constantly sniped at the federal government about vaccines and peddled factually incorrect scare campaigns about the abundant AstraZeneca vaccine.

When I got vaccinated, I also encouraged Queenslanders to get vaccinated in TV news stories that ran statewide on 7NEWS, so to suggest that I have not supported the vaccine rollout is laughable. I have also earned the ire of the anti-vax brigade for publicly criticising Victorians protesting about COVID-19 vaccinations—protests that I add were in large part made up by CFMEU members, a union that all those opposite support, a union that the Queensland Labor Party have taken more than \$335,000 from since they came to power. Queenslanders deserve hope over fear and I call on those opposite to stop the petty political gamesmanship.