




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Coronavirus, Vaccine; Queensland Women's Week

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (6.21 pm): Queensland's success in managing the spread of COVID-19 means we can now focus on crushing the virus with a successful vaccine rollout. Just over two weeks ago the very first COVID jab was administered in our state at the Gold Coast University Hospital and since then vaccination hubs have been stood up from the Gold Coast to the Far North. Queenslanders are now receiving the Pfizer vaccine in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and on the Gold and Sunshine coasts. With supplies of the AstraZeneca vaccine secured, we have been able to expand the rollout in Queensland to Bundaberg, Toowoomba and my community of Logan.

With the initial phase of the vaccine rollout focused on health workers and hotel quarantine staff, the fantastic Logan Hospital team have been at the head of the queue. Over two days 113 doses of the vaccine were administered to local doctors, nurses and other Queenslanders who continue to stand resolute on the front line. If our doctors and nurses are vaccinated then they are best protected and that means they can help more people in the fight against COVID-19. That is crucial because the ongoing efforts of Logan Hospital staff to care for our community during this pandemic have been nothing short of extraordinary.

Over the past 12 months Metro South Health services, which include Logan Hospital, have looked after the second largest number of COVID cases in Queensland. In that time Metro South has seen 337 cases and recorded zero deaths, which is an outstanding achievement given the pressures of the global pandemic. Additionally, Logan Hospital staff have conducted a massive 32,188 COVID tests since March 2020. Those are huge numbers that have ensured we have overcome the threat of outbreaks quickly. Now, with the vaccine rollout underway, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel for Logan, Queensland and our country.

Before I finish, I would also like to use this opportunity during Queensland's Women's Week to pay tribute to my mother who was a dedicated nurse. My late mother spent her life caring for others and instilled in me the drive to serve my community in the pursuit of a brighter future for all. This year's Queensland Women's Week, which is happening right now, has seen me reflect on her career and that of all of the outstanding women in the electorate of Woodridge and the City of Logan who make a real difference to our community. I refer to women such as the principal of Kingston State College, Fran Barker; the CEO of Access Community Services, Gail Kerr; Galila Abdelsalam of the Islamic Women's Association of Australia; Catherine Bartolo, the CEO of YFS; and Stacey Ross, the CEO of the Centre for Women. Our state is richer, stronger and brighter because of the vital contribution that those women make to our community in Woodridge and Logan and our state of Queensland.