




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.10 pm): When it comes to vaccination in Queensland, today is another episode from the flip-flopping Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition simply cannot get it straight because he is simply unable to lead. The most pressing and critical issue facing this state is the COVID-19 vaccination program, and it is beyond question now that the Leader of the Opposition has been holding Queensland back. The Leader of the Opposition has been holding back Queensland's vaccination campaign because he has been blowing the dog whistle for the anti-vaxxers who infest the Liberal National Party in Queensland and its affiliates in their fake unions.

Yesterday in Brisbane the Leader of the Opposition made this bold claim: 'I haven't spoken with forked tongue and I haven't said one thing in one part of the state and one thing in another.' The opposite is true when you come to the Leader of the Opposition. He was doing exactly that by giving voice to anti-vax sentiments when he was in regional Queensland. This is what the Leader of the Opposition said in Mackay just five days ago, 'Above all, do your own research.' Up there in Mackay, wilting under the heat of the tinfoil hat of the LNP's arch anti-vaxxer, 'Doctor' George Christensen, he may as well have swallowed George Christensen's horse medicine, but mandatory vaccination for health workers is really where the LNP has been falling apart and massively damaging Queensland. We know their affiliates in the fake union, the Nurses Professional Association of Queensland—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Everton, one of the arch supporters of NPAQ, the fake union that puts health workers at risk in this state. We know they are already undermining the health advice that frontline health workers should be vaccinated. That is on the public record; that is clear. It is clear that NPAQ is infested by members of the LNP and the anti-vax sentiment of the LNP, as is the state LNP party.

What the Leader of the Opposition has not been able to bring himself to do is back the health advice. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition said, 'If you look at the AHPPC guidelines, that talks about the need for frontline staff to be mandated and we're comfortable with that.' I do not know where the Leader of the Opposition found that comfort, but it was not out at Cannon Hill when he was on Radio 4BC eight days ago. Program host Sofie Formica asked the most straightforward question possible: 'David, you've been pushed a little harder by our listeners to give a yes or no answer on the vaccination mandate.' Pushed harder, you could hear the Leader of the Opposition wriggling and writhing, squirming on the airwaves before he could switch on the auto-babble machine. He said, 'I understand that but it shouldn't be of that—a yes or no answer.'

No wonder the Leader of the Opposition hid from the media today. The Leader of the Opposition, the hero of the health system, was he out in the media fronting the campaign? No, he hid in his office. He hid in his office after question time and put out the B grade—sorry, I am misleading the parliament—

C grade, the member for Kawana and the member for Maroochydore, sending out his lightweight underlings to do his bidding. But the Leader of the Opposition hid from scrutiny on the most important issue facing our state: vaccination. That is because we are witnessing in real time the weak, failing leadership of the Leader of the Opposition, who has made weak, failing leadership his signature. The Leader of the Opposition was unable to answer the most fundamental question going to the most serious question facing Queensland.

The member for Broadwater has not, and will not, back our vaccination program in accordance with the health advice. Worst of all, the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP, which he leads, know exactly what they are doing because he is working on behalf of the fake unions and the anti-vaxxers of the LNP instead of all Queenslanders. That is precisely what he is doing, which is why he cannot give a straight answer either in the parliament or in the public. Finally we might see the Leader of the Opposition show some courage, and I am calling on him to show some courage. Say these simple words: 'I support mandatory vaccination for health workers.' Just say it, member for Broadwater—

(Time expired)