



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Coronavirus, Vaccination**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.46 am): The core component of our plan to unite families and reopen Queensland's borders is vaccination, the core component of our plan to protect the health of Queenslanders is vaccination, and the core component of securing our state's economic recovery is vaccination because vaccination can achieve all of these things by protecting our health system. Vaccination can ensure that our hospitals will not be overwhelmed with COVID cases and, most importantly, vaccination ensures that our frontline health staff will not fall seriously ill with COVID-19. We do not want to lose any nurse, any doctor or any health worker to COVID-19.

In the United Kingdom National Health Service at the peak of the pandemic, 77,000 staff could not work because they were sick with COVID-19. In the United States, more than 3,000 healthcare workers have died because of COVID-19. That is why our government is implementing the health advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee. The AHPPC unequivocally recommends 'mandatory vaccinations for all workers in healthcare settings as a condition of work'.

There is no room for half-measures. It is not enough to say, 'Oh, well, we support vaccination, but we are worried about the impacts of the mandate.' If you are too weak to unequivocally support the health advice, if you do not unequivocally support the mandate for health workers, then you do not support vaccination.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Palaszczuk government has had a plan—a plan to protect the health of Queenslanders, a plan to protect the Queensland economy, a plan to protect Queensland lives and livelihoods. At each stage, we have explained our plan to Queenslanders and we have delivered on it.

Now we are moving into the next critical phase of our plan, a phase that will reunite families, reinvigorate interstate tourism and chart a course through the next stages of the pandemic. Our plan will support Queensland's ongoing economic recovery for families, for workers and for businesses, small and large. Our plan will allow greater freedoms for those who are fully vaccinated, including being able to cross the border from interstate hotspots for Christmas.

As the Chief Health Officer has said time and time again, it is inevitable that every Queenslanders will eventually be exposed to COVID-19. The virus is on our doorstep. It will not politely knock. It will storm in. For individuals, the cost of not being vaccinated will be significant. There may be venues they cannot attend, flights they cannot board, jobs they may be denied if they are unvaccinated. But for individuals the potential is far greater. Unvaccinated people are 29 times more likely to end up in hospital than vaccinated people. Vaccinated people are 86 per cent less likely to catch COVID and pass it on to others. In other states and around the world, we see otherwise young, fit and healthy people become gravely ill and sometimes die because they are unvaccinated. The more of us who are vaccinated, the

sooner we can realise the economic benefits of the government's COVID-19 vaccination plan and the sooner all Queenslanders can safely be reunited with family and friends. The message could not be clearer: don't hesitate—vaccinate.