




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2021

MOTION

Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (4.50 pm): I rise to support the motion before the House. Queensland's health response to COVID-19 has led the nation. As a result, our economic recovery has led the nation. Why? Because our government has always followed the health advice, and on this matter we are no different. Our government endorses the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination of healthcare workers in line with the recommendations of the AHPPC, and the word 'mandatory' is the critical part of this motion. It is a word we seldom heard from those opposite. To his credit, the member for Buderim, who has more backbone than the rest of the LNP combined, was the only person who said the word 'mandatory'.

'We all believe in the AHPPC, just like we all believe in Santa Claus'. That is what we heard from the opposition. We all believe in the AHPPC. We believe in the AHPPC like we believe in democracy or life after love, but we do believe that vaccinations—no-one got it in the audience—for health workers should be mandatory—the member for Burleigh is awake—but on the LNP side they would not say it. The LNP is echoing NPAQ of course, which acknowledges that 'it is a condition of employment that many vaccines are received by health workers' but which also says that it opposes the mandatory vaccination of health workers. That is right: it recognises that some vaccinations are mandatory for employment, but it just does not support a vaccination that is mandatory for employment! Got it?

Queenslanders know where the Palaszczuk government stands, and that is with the people of Queensland. The contrast with the LNP could not be starker. Today when the Leader of the Opposition stood up, all he did was flick the autobabble machine to 'vacillate' instead of 'vaccinate', turned the dial to three minutes and let the autobabble rip. I know that sometimes the LNP and its accomplices talk in code—a certain number of words means this, a certain number of letters means that—but the people of Queensland just wanted to hear eight words from the Leader of the Opposition today: 'I support the mandatory vaccination of health workers'. Those words did not pass his lips.

A government member interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the minister; it is a simple question that needs a simple answer, simple words that did not fall from his lips. The Leader of the Opposition cannot say it and his health spokesperson will not say it. They will not say it. In the case of the member for Mudgeeraba, I think it is because she does not believe it. The LNP member for Mudgeeraba will not disassociate herself from NPAQ. I have more respect for her than for the Leader of the Opposition. The member for Mudgeeraba does not say 'mandatory' because she does not believe in it. The Leader of the Opposition does not say 'mandatory' because he is too weak to believe in that or anything else.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next member, Treasurer, could I ask that you withdraw that last statement? We have ruled that using the term 'weak' is unparliamentary.

Mr DICK: I withdraw.