




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2021

MOTION

Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.11 pm): I rise in support of this motion. The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee is comprised of all state and territory chief health officers and is chaired by the Australian Chief Medical Officer, Professor Paul Kelly. On the best scientific and health evidence, the AHPPC has recommended mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for all workers in healthcare settings and that this be a condition of work. This advice must be implemented in full. It must be supported by all elected representatives and relevant organisations. It must be implemented in order to protect all Queenslanders and Australians. I fully support the AHPPC advice.

COVID-19 vaccinations are critically important to protect the public, staff and patients as outlined by the AHPPC. I say to all Queenslanders—as I have been saying for a long period of time in all of my social media posts, in all of my communications out to the electorate, in all of my speeches in the parliament—get vaccinated. If you have not been vaccinated, get vaccinated now. Now is the time to get vaccinated. I have been providing all of that information out to my electorate over a long period of time.

In my professional life as a specialist physician and in various roles, including as a former president of the Australian Medical Association, as a former deputy chief medical officer, also as a former past president of the Rural Doctors Association, I have been consistently advocating for vaccines and vaccination programs. They are an important public health strategy to control, suppress and eliminate infectious diseases. That also goes for our Childhood Immunisation Register and the National Immunisation Program Schedule. In fact, in my maiden speech in this parliament I talked about the real risks of new and emerging infectious diseases, and the newly elected Labor government at the time did not listen to that information carefully enough to start planning for the future well before we saw COVID-19. That is the reality. They have not been investing in those services.

I have been working with LNP colleagues at all levels of government to ensure that as many people who can be vaccinated are vaccinated. What we have seen over recent weeks in this parliament is a completely vacuous, puerile and facile approach to this debate. There has been a lack of leadership by the Labor Party on the other side of the chamber who has been trying to drive wedge politics. What is needed in this chamber is leadership from the most senior people in the government, including the Premier and the health minister. We need bipartisanship. We need leadership by this state Labor government. We have had absolutely nothing. What they have been trying to do is cheap politics, wedge politics. They have been undermining vaccinations and the vaccination rollout program themselves. They know that once we get going here in Queensland there are going to be real problems because they have not done their due diligence and got people vaccinated in a timelier manner over the last 12 months.