




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Coronavirus, Vaccine

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.27 pm): I am standing tonight to appeal to the residents of Deception Bay, North Lakes, Burpengary East, Rothwell and Mango Hill to go and get their COVID-19 vaccine when it is their turn. It is easy to do. All they need to do is call their GP and book an appointment if they are over 50. They are waiting for them. It is what I have done. I called and when I asked about it they booked me in, no problem. I am off on Tuesday for my first vaccination and I have my second one booked in. It will be the AstraZeneca vaccination and I am happy with that. I say to my constituents that whatever vaccine their doctor offers, they should take it. As Dr Young said, both are very good vaccinations, both have been tested extensively and given the thumbs up by the TGA, one of the best drug regulatory bodies in the world.

I am not waiting until it is too late or we have an outbreak. We have heard in Melbourne today that a lot of people are scrambling to get their vaccinations. People may have felt they had a bit of time to get it, but all of a sudden they realise they need to go and get it now.

One of the reasons I was propelled to get mine was this. A couple of weeks ago I was at a seniors event that the Deputy Premier and I hosted at North Lakes. An older lady fixed me with a stare and asked, 'Have you had your vaccination yet?' I gulped and said, 'No.' She said, 'Well, go and get it done. That is the way we all look after each other.' That is the key: when a person gets their vaccination they are taking responsibility for all the community members around them, whether it be their customers or their workmates. It is the people they come across every day. One of the best ways we can help look after members of our community is to make sure that we ourselves are vaccinated.

If people are over 50 they should call their GP now to make an appointment. To check if they are eligible for their vaccination yet people can go to the eligibility tracker on the QHealth website. People aged 40 to 49 should register their interest on the QHealth website and they can go to a hub when the hubs open. The Palaszczuk government will open 14 community based hubs—they are smaller than the vaccination centres—throughout the state to administer the Pfizer vaccines to eligible frontline workers. Four are already operational in Central Queensland and the next tranche of hubs will open in July. There will be three more in South-East Queensland in the coming weeks. I am appealing to people in my community to do the right thing by other members of their community, join with me and go and get their vaccination. Do not wait until it is too late.