



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

### **Coronavirus Vaccination, Indigenous Communities**

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.40 pm): I rise to speak about the vaccination rollout in First Nations communities right throughout the state—and I show my support for the vaccination rollout—as well as the vaccination rollout in my communities of Cape York and Torres Strait. I had the absolute pleasure of travelling to my Cook electorate last week with the Minister for Health, the Hon. Yvette D'Ath. We visited five communities in Torres Strait as well as the NPA over a couple of days. It was wonderful to have the minister in the electorate talking to communities about the positive messaging around the vaccination.

I want to put on the table today that there has been so much misinformation and so many mistruths shared about the vaccination. It is important that our First Nations communities throughout the state as well as in my part of the world get behind the vaccination rollout. It is not the vaccine that we should be afraid of; it is the virus that we need to be afraid of. The vaccine is safe. Over 50 per cent of the global population have been vaccinated. At the time we did that trip to Torres Strait and the cape last week, over seven billion doses of the vaccination had been administered globally, which is a massive amount of the good stuff going into people's arms.

I acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are most vulnerable to this virus. I would love to see that we all pull through this. I would love for everyone in every single community where there are First Nations people to make the right decisions because it is not only good for us but we have a duty of care to protect our loved ones. Like everyone else in this House, we are all doing it because it is about the people we care about. That is the message that I want to put out to my First Nations brothers and sisters right across Queensland, especially in my communities in the cape and Torres. We have nothing to fear here.

This government is doing everything we can to support all of you to ensure we all pull through this together. It is about people's safety. It is about surviving and coming out of this global pandemic in the best health position we can be in. Most of all, it is about protecting our most vulnerable in this state. Once again, I support the vaccination. I would like to encourage people in my communities to pull up their sleeves and get vaccinated