




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2021

MOTION

Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.57 pm): I rise to make my contribution in front of the two glaring pair of eyes of the government. There is not a full house there, Minister, for what the minister thought was going to be some sort of gotcha moment. Here goes.

I back the AHPPC. I have backed the AHPPC outside the chamber and inside the chamber. May I ask the government, as I have consistently asked, to see the modelling on the impacts on frontline services. I would like to see what it means for the workforce.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will say again that I back the AHPPC guidelines. It protects frontline staff and it protects patients.

What I do not back is Queensland's sluggish vaccination rate. What I do not back is the mixed messaging that has led to it. I am sorry, but the Premier's deferral in getting the vaccine early in the piece sent shock waves through the community. We can paint it any way we like, but when that occurred that sent shock waves through the Queensland community. I wrote to the Premier in February—I did not make it public—and said, 'We should get vaccinated together as a sign of bipartisan and to put this beyond politics.' Instead, the Premier found every excuse not to get vaccinated for several months. That was a mistake.

In the last few days, we have seen a mad panic across regional Queensland. Today the member for Barron River told us just how rushed it really was. I find that refreshing because it gives people the opportunity to see how important vaccines are, but I wish it had occurred a long time ago. Mr Speaker, I can tell you though that it has not moved the needle. Queensland remains at the back of the pack. That is why I have put forward my suggestion and the opposition health spokesperson has put forward our suggestion, and that is: let's get medical professionals—people who are respected medical professionals in the Indigenous community and in the multicultural community and people who are respected in the medical profession across the board—to stand up and be part of an advertising campaign, because clearly they are not listening to people who demonise.

I make this point: what I fear about this motion is that it is the government attempting to find someone else to blame in the weeks ahead, and that concerns me. It concerns me because the government has been bereft of ideas on how to roll out the vaccine and give confidence. It has been bereft of ideas on how to promote hope over fear, and I will not tolerate a misguided scare campaign because the government's slow vaccination rate is on its watch.

(Time expired)