



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Coronavirus, Vaccination**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.50 am): The Palaszczuk government has a sensible and measured plan to reunite families and protect Queenslanders. The key to the plan, as we have heard, is vaccination, and increasing our double vaccination rates to 70 per cent and then 80 per cent and beyond provides the pathway to continue our economic recovery, reunite families and protect Queenslanders.

Schools and school communities across this state are pitching in to do their bit to help the cause. Last weekend, 116 schools across the state opened their gates and hosted weekend pop-up clinics. From Palm Beach Currumbin State High School on the Gold Coast, Stanthorpe State High School in the Southern Downs, Cloncurry State School in the north-west to Cooktown State School up north and in between, Queenslanders came forward in their droves to get jabbed at their local school.

Thuringowa State High School, in the member for Thuringowa's electorate, was also on the list for Super Saturday. We had a great visit with the local member. I visited the school last week where I met Courtney, a double vaccinated student. She told us she got her vaccination so she could visit her grandmother who is unwell. On Saturday I was at Cavendish Road State High School with the member for Greenslopes where many young people were rolling up their sleeves, including 12-year-old Felix who was there with his mum, Florence. Felix told me he wanted to get the jab because his friends were doing it and he also wants to go and visit his family in Africa.

Thousands of people came out to get their jab at a school on Super Saturday—a fantastic result. What is even better is that over 80 per cent of these were first doses—our exact target. This is the momentum we want to keep going. I thank Queensland Health and Education staff for all their efforts. We were the first in the state to move school and early childhood staff into the priority 1b vaccination category and we have had great results from that—with over 73,000 vaccinations since 8 August. That does not include those who have walked into our many clinics across the state.

We have now had two successful weekends of pop-up clinics on school sites, with more being planned. For example, schools like Mareeba State High School are working with local pharmacies to vaccinate students and staff on site during school hours. Our aim is for easy and free access right across this great state.