



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Coronavirus, Vaccination**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): I wish former member Robbie Schwarten all the best. It is great to see you here.

On top of our successful Super Saturday school vaccination blitz, we are ramping up vaccinations in schools through other avenues. We want to make it as easy as possible for our young people, family, friends and staff to get vaccinated, particularly those in rural and remote Queensland. That is why we are bringing the vaccine to school communities throughout Queensland.

I am pleased that our Far North Queensland state schools are working with the Pharmacy Guild of Queensland to administer jabs during school hours. So far, eight Far North Queensland state schools have teamed up with their local pharmacy and health services to vaccinate students, the school community and staff during school time. The first cab off the rank was Mareeba State High in the electorate of Cook where Wholelife Pharmacy administered vaccines to students and staff.

The Tagai State College Thursday Island secondary campus in Cook has teamed up with the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service to administer the vaccine at the school, with 73 students getting their first dose at the clinic. The clinic is up and running again this week. Babinda State School, Malanda State High School and Tully State High School in the electorate of Hill have partnered with local pharmacies to deliver the vaccine.

We have also trialled vaccine hubs during a school's busiest period, their pick-up time. Four schools hosted vaccination hubs last Friday from 3 pm to 5 pm. They included: Kelvin Grove State College, in my own electorate; Aldridge State High School, in the Maryborough electorate; Bray Park State High School, in the Pine Rivers electorate; and Cleveland District State High School, in the electorate of Oodgeroo. I am pleased to report that more than 100 vaccines were administered during this two-hour time frame, with the majority getting their first dose. We also note the reports that are coming out of the US in relation to vaccinating 5- to 11-year-old children. We are keeping a very close eye on this and we will do whatever we can to continue to support and plan vaccination efforts in our schools.

I am sure the whole parliament will join with me in taking this opportunity to wish all of our Queensland year 12 students the best of luck with their external exams which kicked off last Friday. Around 38,000 students will sit at least one exam over the next few weeks. My advice is study hard, do your best, but do not forget to get a good night sleep. Good luck to all!