




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Vaccination; World Teachers' Day

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.53 am): Our school vax pop-up clinics were a huge success on Super Saturday. More than 13,500 people came through and got their jabs at more than 100 schools, with 86 per cent of these people receiving their first dose. Today I am pleased to announce, along with the Premier, that we are rolling out even more pop-up clinics at 12 Queensland schools over the next three days. We want to make it as easy as possible for our school communities to access the vaccine. That is why these clinics will be open during school hours, after school and on the weekend.

Some of these school clinics include: Logan Special School in the electorate of Woodridge, will be open tomorrow during school hours; Kutta Mulla Gorinna Special Assistance School in the electorate of Mackay, with the clinic also opening tomorrow during school time; Emerald State High School in the electorate of Gregory, which will be open this Saturday—and I thank the member for his assistance with vaccinations—and Laidley State High School in the electorate of Lockyer, which will be open both days this weekend. Other clinics will be based in schools in Deception Bay, Woodridge, Browns Plains, Bloomsbury, Pindi Pindi, Rural View and Rockhampton. These clinics are based in target areas where we need to lift the vaccination rates. The list of schools will be available on the vaccination locations page of the Queensland Health website today—and I thank the minister for her assistance.

Not only are we encouraging students, their families and their friends, but we are also particularly encouraging our school staff to come forward. We are proud to be the first state in the country to bring forward school and early childhood staff into the priority 1b vaccination category, and the statistics speak for themselves. We have seen more than 74,000 staff vaccinations since 8 August, and that figure does not include those teachers and staff who received a jab outside of the program.

Tomorrow is also a special day. Tomorrow Queensland celebrates World Teachers' Day, and what a great opportunity this is for all of us to acknowledge the fantastic work of our 78,000 teachers in state and non-state schools across Queensland. Landmarks across the state will light up in purple, green and blue to mark the occasion. This includes the Story Bridge right here in Brisbane, the Warwick Town Hall in Southern Downs, City Hall in Charters Towers and the Victoria Bridge in Townsville just to name a few.

Each and every one of our teachers brings something special to the classroom, and I have been lucky enough to meet many of them as I travel around the state as Minister for Education. This World Teachers' Day we say a big thanks—I have also given certain areas a day off tomorrow—to each and every one of our dedicated and professional Queensland teachers.