



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Coronavirus Vaccination, Schools**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.52 am): The Palaszczuk government has a sensible and measured plan to reunite families, protect Queenslanders and continue our economic recovery. The key to this plan is vaccination, and schools and school communities across the state are pitching in to ensure their communities are vaccinated and safe. As we all know, thanks to the amazing effort of Queenslanders we hit 70 per cent double dosed vaccinations on Sunday, and yesterday at 5.11 pm we saw the first people coming into Queensland under the new home quarantine rules. But we cannot stop here—it is now to 80 per cent double dosed and beyond.

More than 100 schools opened their gates for the 'super schools weekend' in October, with around 16,000 people walking through to get their jab. What is great is that more than 85 per cent rolled up their sleeves to get their first dose, which means it is time for all those people to come back and get their second dose if they have not already. A further 58 schools hosted pop-up vaccination clinics last weekend. With around 10,000 Queenslanders showing up to get their jab, nearly 60 per cent of them were having their first dose. We are gearing up for another 'super schools weekend' this weekend with a targeted 100 schools in areas where vaccination rates are low, with additional school locations to be confirmed as soon as possible.

The clock is ticking on getting vaccinated. We know there are more than 800,000 eligible Queenslanders 12 years old and older who are completely unprotected. They need to get vaccinated before the border opens further and restrictions come in for unvaccinated people. This should be their top priority. From Balaclava State School up in Cairns to Merrimac State High School on the Gold Coast, right across Queensland schools are throwing open their doors this weekend. There is no need to make an appointment for our pop-up school clinics. Anyone 12 years old and over can show up and get their first and second dose, just like Felix did at Cavendish Road State School. While you are there, support your local school's fundraising efforts by grabbing a sausage or perhaps a cupcake.

On that note, can I thank all of the school staff, P&C volunteers, Queensland Health staff and the Minister for Health who have made these pop-up vaccination clinics possible, helping to keep our communities safe. Let's keep that momentum going this weekend by getting out to your local school, rolling up your sleeve and getting the jab.