




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2021

MOTION

Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.44 pm): I rise to speak in support of this motion. It is interesting to hear the member for Warrego talk about making the vaccine rollout political when we all know that the federal government had two jobs, both of which it failed at. The federal government did not deliver the vaccines to Queensland, they were worried about New South Wales—that was ‘gold standard’—and we did not even get a quarantine station. Those opposite should not forget that it was the federal government that failed Queensland miserably.

Around the world, healthcare workers have been on the front line in facing COVID-19. These workers have treated the sick, they have witnessed the terrible toll that this virus has had on individuals, families and communities and they have continued to roll out testing and vaccinations. I sincerely thank each and every one of them for their dedication, for putting themselves and their families at risk.

Sadly, the World Health Organization has estimated that COVID may have killed over 115,000 healthcare workers globally. This is tragic. That is why the AHPPC has recommended mandatory vaccination for all healthcare workers—to protect them, their patients, their families and their communities. That is why the Palaszczuk government has mandated vaccinations for all healthcare workers by the end of October.

Again, I thank the healthcare workers in my community, including my darling niece Millie, who are fully vaccinated, because we know vaccination is the only way to stop this virus. We want to ensure that our frontline workers are protected. We know that these dedicated workers such as Millie have an increased risk of catching the virus due to the nature of their work.

The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mudgeeraba continue to duck and dive around the issue. Whilst they have made statements today, at no point have they made any comments about mandating it. They have made elaborate statements around the AHPPC. Is this because they want to keep their backers at the NPAQ happy? Perhaps. This is an organisation that suggests health workers seek an exemption from the Queensland Health mandate on the basis that ‘the lack of engagement around the risks of the COVID-19 vaccine triggers concerns that this process is inconsistent with human rights’ and that the mandate is ‘forcing workers to undergo medical treatment without being provided with the information necessary to give my full, free and informed consent’. I call on those opposite to condemn these statements. Is it because they are backing George Christensen, who recently compared vaccine mandates to slavery and apartheid—he actually did say that—or could it be because they want to cosy up to—

(Time expired)