



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2021

**MOTION**

**Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.38 pm): It might be an old story, but I will tell you a story that will never be heard and that is the story of the Greens funding anything ever to do with health care. I started my training in the eighties and I was required to have a chest X-ray, numerous vaccinations and even a psychiatric test. Ever since that time I have had to undergo further vaccinations and further medical procedures when I have started new jobs in various healthcare settings. While I had all of those when I was 17 years of age and I probably did not necessarily understand why I was having them, it did not take me long as a nurse to understand that what we were doing was (a) keeping myself safe but (b), much more importantly for nurses, keeping the people we care for safe. It has been a standard practice in health care for a very long time to require nurses and other health workers to have mandatory vaccinations.

The International Council of Nurses, the international body that represents nursing unions—I note that the fake union those opposite are fond of is not a member—has worked together with the World Health Organization to estimate the number of health workers who have died since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am sad to report that an estimated 115,000 health workers have died since March last year. The majority of those are nurses. What would those nurses say about mandatory vaccination? What would those nurses' families say about mandatory vaccination? I reckon they would want it. If we had it in March last year, that number would be a lot lower. I pay respect to all of those nurses and other health workers who went to work to care for people and made the ultimate sacrifice.

I think about police officers and have been reviewing the statistics today from the United States. Since the start of the pandemic, 473 officers in the United States have been listed as killed in the line of duty as a result of COVID-19. In the same period, 93 were killed in the line of duty as a result of gunshot wounds. Nearly five times as many have died from COVID-19 as have died of gunshot wounds. That is why we need mandatory vaccinations. I commend the health minister, the Premier, Dr John Wakefield and all of the people in Queensland Health who have taken the brave decisions to make sure we are following this advice and to mandate vaccinations. That is saving lives.

The only body that does not support this is that fake organisation owned by that LNP hack Graeme Haycroft. If the members for Mudgeeraba and Moggill are serious when they say that they will stand up at every opportunity and oppose this, they should go to those organisations and tell them to withdraw the lawsuits to try to stop mandatory vaccinations. Why don't you do that, member for Moggill, the next time you are at one of their conferences—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair, member.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the member for Greenslopes' comments personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr KELLY:** I withdraw.

*(Time expired)*