




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2021

MOTION

Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.07 pm): I support this motion. Let me be clear: I support the health advice. Sadly, on this issue I am not on a unity ticket with my federal counterpart, the member for Dawson. Adding to his laundry list of downright disturbing remarks, George Christensen has compared mandatory vaccinations with 'apartheid'—how shameful. Those opposite keep saying that they support vaccination, but there is always a 'but'—but, but, but. Then they spend the next three minutes talking about why they do not support it.

The member for Dawson is more concerned with his own personal preference for crank fringe politics more akin to One Nation than fighting for the people of Mackay—the job that he is paid to do. As always with George, the facts on vaccination are of course right in front of him from the AHPPC. They are just not the facts that suit his agenda. The facts are that vaccines save lives. That is what everybody over there needs to understand. The AHPPC logically suggests that those caring for the sick and vulnerable should, in fact, be vaccinated and it should be mandatory, so get behind us and back this.

When the member for Dawson opposes this, he is saying that he is happy for people to be at high risk of catching, and possibly dying, of COVID. It is patients who are at risk. I am disturbed to hear complaints from local nurses in Mackay that anti-vax posters linked to NPAQ—and the member for Mudgeeraba needs to resign—and their legal challenge have surfaced around the Mackay hospital. How disgusting! They were printed on the back of George Christensen's signs. This is absolutely outrageous!

You would think that when the member for Dawson sprouts dangerous anti-vax rhetoric those opposite would distance themselves from his views. In fact, you would repeatedly condemn them publicly. But not the member for Whitsunday, because George Christiansen is her close friend and ally, her political aspiration and mentor. The member for Whitsunday fails to distance herself from his dangerous rhetoric and actions because they are a team. They have been on billboards together. They back each other in on every topic that you raise. Words matter. If the lives of the people of Mackay and Whitsunday matter, the member for Whitsunday should be brave enough to support this motion.

(Time expired)