



Speech By  
**Lance McCallum**


**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2021

## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **Coronavirus, Vaccination**

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.30 pm): I would like to thank every Queenslanders who has rolled up their sleeves to get vaccinated, and I encourage all those who are not yet fully vaccinated to do so as soon as possible. We have done a great job working together to keep each other safe throughout this pandemic. Every time the virus has come into our great state, we have worked together to beat it.

Our next challenge—and perhaps our greatest—is right on our doorstep. The dangerous delta variant has caused death and illness in our neighbouring states and will no doubt once again threaten us in Queensland as the nation and our state open up. Today, in fact, we have had two new local cases, but Queenslanders are heeding the call to get vaccinated in response to the delta threat. Some 28,994 vaccination doses were administered last weekend on Super Saturday and, with 43,716 administered over the whole weekend, Queensland is tracking at just over 60 per cent double dosed.

I would also like to thank all those in our local Bundamba community who have come forward to get vaccinated. This includes people attending our local schools such as Bellbird Park State Secondary College and Ripley Valley State Secondary College. That said, our local vaccination rate is currently 63 per cent for first doses, and 46 per cent of people are fully vaccinated.

While we have made good progress, we clearly need to lift our vaccination rates urgently. That is why I have taken to our local radio waves, roadside billboards and newspapers to encourage as many people as possible to get vaccinated before we open our borders. We need to lift our local vaccination rate to be in line with or above the rate in neighbouring Brisbane which is at 81.2 per cent first dose and 68.1 per cent second dose. Come on, Bundamba. This is our time. This is our call to arms. Let's get vaccinated and let's get protected right now.

I am also encouraging every other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander to get vaccinated urgently. There is a concerning gap in our vaccination rates compared to the rest of the population, with first doses at only 47.9 per cent and second doses at 36.2 per cent. There are also lower rates for other cultural groups, including in the Bundamba community, such as our Polynesian and African community members. It is particularly concerning when we consider that these lower rates often sit alongside greater risk as it is common for large family groups to be in a single house sharing a single kitchen and bathroom.

Sometimes the reasons for these lower rates are not so obvious. It may be hard to get yourself or your loved ones to a clinic because there is no car, no licence or maybe not enough money for a taxi or public transport. There may be cultural challenges or concerns such as language barriers, dealing with administration and paperwork, or not having the appropriate identification or even a Medicare card. Whatever the challenge to getting vaccinated, I believe that it can be worked through. I want to

acknowledge the great work of organisations such as Kambu Health, at its Booval and Ipswich clinics, and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health, which operates our local Goodna clinic. I have been very proud to be part of the institute's Step Up vaccination campaign supported by Deadly Choices.

The Palaszczuk government has assisted the Commonwealth to help vaccinate First Nations Queenslanders, but clearly more needs to be done. The need to vaccinate is urgent. If a community has barriers or challenges—no matter what they are—I urge them to contact Queensland Health, their GP or even their local MP's office for assistance. My office is certainly there and willing to help anyone, because your jab will save lives. It may save the life of someone you love. It may even save your own. Vaccination means that together we can keep each other safe and our economy strong as Queensland reopens. Please, do not wait. Vaccinate now.