




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Coronavirus, Vaccination; Year 12, Graduation

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (7.11 pm): I am pleased to announce vaccination rates across our local Ipswich community continue to rise. As of today, a total of 82.2 per cent of people have now received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine while 68.2 per cent of people in Ipswich are fully vaccinated. These rates have risen by almost four per cent in the past week alone. It is a good result but clearly we have more work to do. Getting vaccinated has never been more easy or convenient.

Our school captains continue to play an important part in our safe and strong recovery. This weekend more than 100 schools across the state will once again host vaccination clinics. I was proud to welcome the Premier to one of our local schools that has been central to our vaccination efforts in recent weeks—Redbank Plains State High School. School captains Ellie, Elizabeth, Johnny-Mack and Alison are leading by example—rolling up their sleeves and getting vaccinated and encouraging our local community to do the same. Their enthusiasm and passion is undeniable. They even managed to get the Premier and myself to take part in what was my very first TikTok video to help promote the importance of being fully vaccinated. The clock has well and truly stopped ticking on this one. It is past time to get vaccinated. To everyone in our local community of Ipswich and across the rest of Queensland I say: please get vaccinated now.

Our local students are leading from the front as another challenging year at school comes to a close. On Friday we will farewell the senior class of 2021. These students have shown great resilience and determination to finish their secondary education during two years disrupted by the pandemic. Homeschooling, postponed exams, formals and other events and abbreviated and suspended sport seasons were all a part of their unique journey to graduation.

Now, because of our ongoing safe and strong recovery and increasing vaccination rates, we can celebrate their success in and out of the classroom. I have been proud to attend and support graduations and presentations across our local community. From early childhood centres to senior school awards, our education providers in Bellbird Park, Bundamba, Collingwood Park, Goodna, Redbank Plains, Redbank, Ripley and Riverview continue to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of their students, staff, supporters and the entire school community.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the seniors of 2021. I wish you all the very best for the future and hope you have a safe and well-earned break. To our teachers, support staff, parents and carers: thank you for everything you have done and continue to do to educate, inform and inspire our next generation.