




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2021

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Ipsos Polling Data; Order to Table Documents

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.57 pm): We are still in the middle of a global pandemic and people's lives are still on the line. Let me just share with the chamber some figures in relation to what we are dealing with here. We have had seven deaths in Queensland—seven very regrettable deaths for everybody who knows and is related to those people who died. Do members know how many deaths there were this week in the United States? There were 10,528 deaths. There are three states of note that are experiencing a third wave: Texas, 1,420 deaths; New York, 1,642 deaths; and Florida, 1,727 deaths. We are talking thousands of deaths, recently. Do members know what their two-dose vaccination rates were? Texas' vaccination rate is 47 per cent; New York's is 60 per cent and they had 1,642 deaths; and Florida's is 53 per cent. Do members know what our vaccination rate is? Our vaccination rate is just over 30 per cent. I say to people in this debate: let's get the silly politics out of it and get onto the policy.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: If the opposition were serious about saving lives they would be moving a motion about the federal government's incompetence when it comes to the vaccine rollout. They would be moving a motion about their incompetence in not doing their constitutional duty in providing quarantine. They would be moving motions about substantial things that mean something and might actually mean a better health outcome.

All we have is a childish motion on something that every government around the world is doing. We know the only way out of this is to get people vaccinated. We know some people out there have very different views about a whole lot of things. The way we communicate with them to convince them to get vaccinated is really important. The irresponsible nature of this motion is another act in a long line of attempts to undermine our health response.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. We have had seven deaths in Queensland. In the United States there have only been four states that have had fewer deaths than Queensland—South Dakota, Vermont, DC and Maine. Do members know why they have fewer deaths?

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat please, Minister. Member for Chatsworth, you are continually interjecting and it has nothing to do with what the motion is about or what the minister is speaking about. I place you on a warning.

Mr BAILEY: They have fewer deaths compared to Queensland's performance in the last 20 months if I only count their last week. What I say is look at the outcome. The outcome in this state is world leading. Look at New South Wales—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: That is what we are trying to stop here in Queensland. For those opposite to be making silly interjections and talking about game shows when people's lives are on the line is a bloody disgrace.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I apologise and I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are almost there, folks. Let us try to get there in an orderly manner.

Mr BAILEY: People's lives are on the line and we are not out of the woods yet.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Nanango, I am going to place you on a warning. You interjected as soon as the House resumed.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you can go on a warning too.

Mr BAILEY: We are not out of the woods yet. People's lives are on the line. Let us focus on ensuring that people do not die from this virus and do not die a lonely and painful death. If we look at Queensland compared to anywhere else in the world, I know where I would rather be, that is under the strong leadership of the Premier, the Chief Health Officer, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Health. We only have to look around the world to understand how effective we have been in Queensland. For those opposite to be carrying on like this is some kind of game when people's lives are on the line—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I am looking at every single one of you. They can be outraged, but there is a reason they are in opposition. They let people down last year. Last year the opposition continued to undermine our health response. They are still doing it here today. This motion is a joke.

Interruption.