




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.06 am): It is vaccination week. The COVID clock is ticking. COVID is coming to Queensland. Our frontline emergency personnel are leading the way. They are setting an example for all Queenslanders. Over 99 per cent of Queensland police officers and staff members are now vaccinated or have an exemption. This is an outstanding result. It means that our police are safe and their families are safe. Because police have so many interactions with the community right across Queensland, it is imperative that police and police staff members are vaccinated to keep the community safe. There is no part of Queensland that police do not go to, so with—and I will say it again—over 99 per cent of officers vaccinated or having an exemption, the community can have confidence in our police.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is also strongly supporting all of its workforce to get vaccinated. Staff and volunteers come under the phase 1b category of critical and high-risk workers in relation to the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services has mandated at least one COVID-19 vaccination for certain activities undertaken by personnel, including volunteering and working at a vaccination hub or at hotel quarantine, and that is based on advice from Queensland Health. The department is working closely with the Queensland Health COVID-19 task force to ensure staff and volunteers have a pathway to receiving their vaccinations.

Queensland Corrective Services is also strongly encouraging all of its workforce to get vaccinated. All Corrective Services staff are eligible to access the COVID-19 vaccine as a part of Queensland's 1b vaccination group. I am pleased to advise that thousands of staff members have already been vaccinated. I would like to thank all of our frontline emergency staff for showing the way when it comes to vaccination. It is a race. It is a race against time, a race against COVID. I say to all Queenslanders: be like our frontline emergency staff—their jobs save lives; your job will save lives.