




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.57 am): Queensland's police officers and emergency services personnel have been on the front line of community safety throughout the pandemic. They have been on the borders, in the airports and in hotel quarantine helping to keep the virus out to keep the community safe and protect our economy. They have also led by example when it comes to vaccination.

Over 99 per cent of police officers are vaccinated, and now they are going to the next step. Police officers who vaccinated early are now getting their third or booster shot; in fact, just last week when I was in Mount Isa Deputy Commissioner Paul Taylor—whom you know very well, Mr Speaker—who has responsibility for police in all regional areas across Queensland, received his booster shot. It was a great example to the people of Mount Isa but also to other police officers and the broader Queensland community about our commitment to community safety.

I also acknowledge the staff and officers of Queensland Corrective Services who have stepped up and worked hard to keep COVID out of correctional facilities. It is an extraordinary effort. As the Premier has just announced, those who work in correctional facilities now will be required to be vaccinated. This is a sensible decision that will protect staff, officers and their families and the broader community. This is further strong action by the Palaszczuk government to protect vulnerable Queenslanders and to keep the community safe.

I also pay tribute to our lifesavers. A few weeks back lifesaving clubs along the Queensland coastline hosted vaccination clinics over the long weekend. This resulted in a large number of Queenslanders getting their very first COVID vaccine jab. Since then, Surf Life Saving Queensland has taken another important step to support community safety. Surf Life Saving Queensland has now mandated that all volunteers and staff over 16 years of age will have to be vaccinated by March next year. Surf Life Saving Queensland stated that it believed that this requirement is the best way to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its members and beachgoers in the ongoing fight against COVID-19. They said that the requirement would help minimise the risk of infection and the spread of infection when lifesavers conduct rescues throughout the patrolling season.

Whether it is our police, emergency services personnel, correctional staff and officers or lifesavers, they all give so much to support community safety. Through their actions and through their example, these first responders and emergency services personnel keep the community safe. Vaccination is the key to keeping the virus at bay and vaccination is the key to Queensland's strong economic recovery.