




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2021

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.43 am): Over the past 659 days, Queensland has weathered a once-in-a-century pandemic remarkably well. We have had just 2,111 cases, most acquired overseas or interstate. Just 11 cases remain active. Tragically, seven Queenslanders have lost their lives. Right now we are on the cusp of achieving our vaccination targets without experiencing anything like the world has seen and, indeed, unlike the experiences of New South Wales or Victoria. Our economic recovery relies on that health response. It is thanks to our health response that business is open and we are creating jobs.

Disappointingly, over those 659 days Queenslanders have become accustomed to their Prime Minister undermining their efforts. He did not support suppressing the virus. He did not support border closures that kept the virus out. He did not get adequate vaccination supplies in time. He did not support our dedicated quarantine facilities. He failed to achieve his own targets for vaccinating aged care, disability care and First Nations people.

Today, instead of urging Queenslanders to get vaccinated, instead of announcing a national emergency plan to get First Nations people vaccinated, instead of doing his job, the Prime Minister has chosen to undermine the vaccine mandates that have successfully accelerated vaccine take-up here in Queensland and he has done so for the sake of his own cynical political interests. He has chosen to throw his weight—the weight of the high office of the Prime Minister—behind dangerous fringe elements such as those who protested yesterday here and in Melbourne. He is so desperate to claw together a coalition of anti-vaxxers for his own political benefit that he is undermining confidence in our vaccine rollout. He says business should be able to choose whether to require vaccination—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Nanango is warned under the standing orders.

**Dr MILES:**—which would leave businesses out on a limb, having to decide whether to keep their staff safe or compete for patrons with another business without a mandate. Clearly he has not listened to the majority from business and industry who were unanimous in calling for leadership, clarity and direction from government.

Today the Prime Minister has attempted to trivialise the vaccination effort by talking about getting cups of coffee. We want people in Brisbane to get cups of coffee too; we just do not want them to get COVID while they are doing it. Queenslanders who have been vaccinated deserve to get their freedoms back. They deserve to be rewarded for doing the right thing. They do not deserve to be undermined by a prime minister who is more interested in currying favour with coffee baron donors and lunatic backbenchers than he is in the health and the jobs of Queenslanders. Today the Prime Minister has done what he has done every day of this pandemic: attacked Queensland, attacked Queenslanders and attacked our health response, all for the sake of his own political survival.