



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Coronavirus, Vaccine**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): Queensland has gained another weapon in our fight against COVID-19: a vaccine. Yesterday I was fortunate enough to attend the first round of vaccinations with the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, at the Gold Coast University Hospital, one of Queensland's six Pfizer hubs. Zoe Park, a registered nurse who has been working at the Gold Coast COVID ward, was the first Queenslander to get a vaccine and that happened at the hospital that treated Queensland's first COVID patient. She was vaccinated alongside a member of our Queensland Police Service, a venue health manager at our Gold Coast quarantine hotels and a hotel quarantine operational support officer. In total 203 Queenslanders were vaccinated at the Gold Coast vaccination hub yesterday—double our original target. This first phase of vaccinations has prioritised those workers who are engaging with our hotel quarantine facilities and working in our COVID wards, including police officers, healthcare workers, paramedics and cleaners.

This is an exciting time for Queensland and, indeed, Australia, but there is a long way to go. We will continue to work with the Commonwealth government to ensure that we are receiving the required amounts of Pfizer vaccine to continue our rollout statewide. Five more vaccination hubs are being stood up across the state and will come online over the next two weeks as Queensland receives more supplies. This week we will be rolling out the vaccine at the PA Hospital and Cairns Hospital hubs. Next week will see the remaining Pfizer hubs at the RBWH, Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Townsville University Hospital become operational. However, we must remember that this is only the first phase of the vaccine rollout. Other parts of Queensland that do not have a vaccine hub will receive the AstraZeneca vaccine from phase 1b onwards.

The COVID-19 vaccination rollout is the most significant coordinated immunisation campaign that Australia and, indeed, the world has ever seen. We must remain patient. With the TGA providing provisional approval for the AstraZeneca vaccine to be provided to Australians, our message to Queenslanders is clear: any Queenslander who wants a vaccination will receive one when their turn comes. In the meantime, I urge Queenslanders to continue the measures that have helped us manage this pandemic so successfully: social distancing, hand hygiene and, most importantly, getting tested and staying home when you have any COVID-19 symptoms. Together we will continue to get through this.