




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Vaccine

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.47 am): Last night the Queensland Chief Health Officer was advised by the Commonwealth that an incident had occurred at an aged-care facility in Queensland. I subsequently contacted the Commonwealth health minister, Greg Hunt, and was advised that two aged-care residents in the Holy Spirit care centre at Carseldine on Brisbane's north side received overdoses of the Pfizer vaccine under the Commonwealth's vaccine rollout.

On receiving this information, Queensland Health immediately responded to ensure immediate steps were taken to ensure the two residents—an 88-year-old male and a 94-year-old female—were being properly assessed and monitored. The executive director of medical services at Metro North Hospital and Health Service was immediately contacted and worked with the aged-care facility to check on the welfare of both patients. The patients continue to be monitored, and I am advised both patients are not showing any adverse reactions to the vaccine at this stage. We are advised by the Commonwealth that the families of the residents were informed yesterday and we are grateful that the patients are not showing any adverse reactions at this time, but we will continue to monitor them.

Queensland is seeking more details from the Commonwealth about this very serious incident. The Commonwealth authorities have commenced an investigation into the events overnight. The Commonwealth has already committed to sharing the findings of this investigation with the Queensland government—and we welcome this.

We are seeking assurances from the Commonwealth around the rigour of the training and the strength and oversight of the safety systems in the rollout of the vaccine across residential aged care in Queensland. What these incidents highlight is the importance of full transparency and sharing information from the Commonwealth government about the rollout across the aged-care sector and the broader rollout of the vaccine.

In relation to our rollout across Queensland's six hubs, I can update the House that in the first two days of the rollout at the Gold Coast University Hospital 527 frontline workers have received their first vaccination. The Princess Alexandra Hospital vaccination hub also comes online today in a further boost for our frontline defence against COVID. Cairns, RBWH, the Sunshine Coast and Townsville are set to be operational by the end of next week. Queenslanders can be assured that Queensland will continue to follow the advice of the Chief Health Officer during the vaccine rollout. Safety will always be our No. 1 priority, as it has always been throughout the course of the pandemic.