



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


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Coronavirus, Liberal National Party**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.10 pm): The Leader of the Opposition likes to talk tough, but talk about leadership or a lack of leadership! Those on the other side have no idea what leadership actually is. I dread to think what would have happened over the last 19 months if the LNP had been in government, because their idea of leadership was calling for the borders to be opened 64 times. Their idea of leadership is to sit silent.

They say they are happy to criticise the Commonwealth. Really? Let us look at the history here, because they have been silent on regional quarantine. In fact, no, they have not been silent on regional quarantine; every time a regional quarantine facility is mentioned, they play local politics and start putting fear in the community by saying, 'We don't want that in our backyard. How do we make sure the people of Toowoomba are safe?' What about the millions of people who live in South-East Queensland and Brisbane who have lived around hotel quarantine since day one? They say, 'We don't care about those people either.'

The Leader of the Opposition talks about the 10 am circus. If it is such a circus, why does the Leader of the Opposition stand in the wings on the green, waiting for his turn to be part of it every day? Every day, he waits and he waits, and then he runs out and does his little press conference while the media are waiting. Some of them wait; some just pack up and leave before he starts talking. What a joke. The Leader of the Opposition is more than happy to do his little stand-up every day off the back of ours. He thinks, 'I can't draw the media in myself so I'll use the government because the media is already there and I'll race in and do it.'

This serious decision that was made last week—which was not an easy decision—was because we have a responsibility to keep over five million Queenslanders safe. Those on the opposite side can play politics and say that the NRL is taking rooms away from people who want to visit loved ones for end of life and those sorts of things, but that is not true. That is absolutely not true, because those hotels are not part of the hotel quarantine system. They are not being managed by the government. We have made this very clear.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** If the member for Kawana listens, he will learn something. The fact is that people can still apply for exemptions. The suspension relates to an automatic right of entry, but if you have exceptional needs and reasons you can still go down the pathway of an exemption to come in while we have this suspension. This suspension allows us to free up some rooms. We are also having to take well over our cap of international arrivals, and the Commonwealth do not share with us how many diplomats and others will fly in above the cap every day who we have to find immediate hotel rooms for.

I turn to the vaccine rollout. What do the public health staff think every day when they hear the Commonwealth and the LNP say that they are not doing their job properly and they are lagging behind? This idea that everyone is getting the same number of vaccines shows how ignorant those on the other

side are. They compare Tasmania to Queensland! Oh, my God, how stupid is that comment? They compare Tasmania to Queensland. Do they understand the size difference between the two? Do they understand the population base? They say it is the same to roll out a vaccination program in Tasmania—when we are such a decentralised state, including the islands in the Torres Strait—and this shows that those on the other side have no leadership whatsoever.

We are very proud of our rollout. Queensland has administered the third largest number of vaccines in the country. We are third as far as our vaccination numbers go and we are the third largest state. It makes sense. It is absolutely false for those on the other side to say we are all getting equal numbers. In fact, 500,000 vaccines have gone to New South Wales from that Poland delivery, whereas we got 136,000. We do not begrudge New South Wales for getting extra, but the opposition cannot then ask why we are not vaccinating at the same rate as New South Wales. They have had to fast-track because people are so terrified down there because they have 20,000 positive cases out of one cluster and 93 deaths from one cluster. We have had seven deaths from the start of this pandemic. There is the evidence of leadership.

*(Time expired)*