




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.08 am): We know it is a matter of when, not if, COVID-19 returns to Queensland. That is why we need to get as much of the community vaccinated as quickly as possible. Queensland has come a long way in our vaccination journey over the past six months. From the beginning we have said that vaccinating our population will be no small feat, but today I am proud to say that the Queensland government has delivered more than 1.3 million vaccine doses. That is our amazing health staff in action.

This is in addition to the two million doses delivered by our GPs, community pharmacies and other providers. I remind everyone in this House that the only reason community pharmacies are vaccinating in Queensland and have led the way across the country is that the Palaszczuk government called for this to occur. Of course, we called for it to occur from February; we finally did get it approved. Queensland's vaccination rollout program continues to expand as we get more supply. This means that 3.4 million vaccinations have already been administered in Queensland. We are opening up more community vaccination locations, extending hours at existing centres, establishing more outreach clinics for rural and remote areas, setting up temporary pop-up clinics for at-risk communities and offering—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Minister. Member for Currumbin, you will—as you have done—put your mask back on, as I have requested members to do, and you will not quarrel across the chamber with the member for Pine Rivers.

Mrs D'ATH: We are establishing special walk-in weekends for our First Nations people. Last week Queensland Health administered 121,855 vaccine doses to Queenslanders, breaking the record for the greatest number of vaccines administered in a week. We are continuing to supercharge our rollout. We now have mass vaccination hubs that deliver an incredible 4,000-plus doses each day. In just over a fortnight more than 50,000 doses were delivered by our hardworking staff at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre's mass vaccination centre. As the Premier announced on Sunday, we are providing greater mass vaccination capacity by bringing the Boondall Entertainment Centre online next week. This will allow us to upscale even more capacity.

In addition to capacity, we are also scaling up accessibility to the vaccine. In the past couple of months we have rolled out new community vaccination locations in Rockhampton, Gladstone, Townsville, Cairns and Mackay, utilising showrooms, universities, community centres and showgrounds. We have also ramped up our outreach clinics across the state. For example, we are rolling out outreach clinics in Ingham, Burdekin, Hughenden and Charters Towers throughout this

month. We have been ensuring that our border communities have adequate protection against the threat of the virus emanating from New South Wales, with vaccination outreach clinics being stood up at Goondiwindi, Inglewood, Warwick and Mungindi.

In the state's Far North, our outreach vaccination teams have been visiting communities across the cape. Due to increased supply this month, we have been able to bring forward the vaccination rollout for the communities of Aurukun, Coen, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Pormpuraaw, Hope Vale, Wujal Wujal and Laura. We are seeing very good uptake in these communities. For example, nearly 90 per cent of the eligible community in Pormpuraaw have now received their first dose, which is fantastic. Statewide, 51.3 per cent of Queenslanders have now received at least one dose, and 31.7 per cent are now fully vaccinated.

As we continue to get additional supply from the Commonwealth government we will continue to accelerate our vaccine rollout. I extend a heartfelt thank you to all the Queenslanders who have come forward so far to be vaccinated. I encourage every Queenslanders who is eligible to receive a vaccine to make arrangements to do so immediately. By registering with Queensland Health, talking to your GP or visiting a local community pharmacist, you can help lift Queensland out of the pandemic and get us back to normality.