




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Home Quarantine

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): Sadly the New South Wales cluster that commenced on 16 June yesterday reached a very concerning milestone: 100,018 positive cases from one cluster across four jurisdictions and 538 deaths—and this does not count the ones that have already been reported today. In total Queensland has had 2,067 cases. It is important that we do everything we can to implement strategies that will help manage the virus in our state. That is why home quarantine is the latest addition to Queensland's fight against COVID-19. Yesterday a trial commenced which will give 1,000 Queenslanders the opportunity to return home and safely quarantine in a home environment. Already 376 Queenslanders have been approved to come home this week as part of this trial and we know those numbers will grow. We have reached out to many people already—almost 4,000, in fact—to offer them this opportunity. This is in addition to Queenslanders returning and going into hotel quarantine. We want to see Queenslanders re-united with their loved ones, enjoying Australia's best lifestyle as our economy begins to bounce back from the pandemic.

Our home quarantine trial has important safeguards in place to protect the safety of Queenslanders and the Queensland economy. As part of the trial Queenslanders returning home will need to be fully vaccinated at least two weeks before travel, they have to have returned a negative PCR test within 72 hours of entry, use the home quarantine check-in system, quarantine at home for 14 days and undergo COVID tests on days 1, 5 and 12.

Participants have to have a suitable home with direct entry and arrive by air. They will need to nominate a quarantine address that must be located in one of the eight local government areas: Brisbane, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Ipswich, Logan, Gold Coast and Redland. The nominated address will need to be within safe driving distance without stopping of the port of arrival, in this case, the Brisbane Airport. If there are other people residing in the same property they will need to quarantine for the full 14 days and take part in the scheduled testing requirements. I want to stress that anyone who breaches the conditions of the trial will be subject to fines and risk being put into hotel quarantine at their own expense.

As with any trial, this offers us the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and make improvements to enhance or expand the trial. If you have come forward to participate in this trial, check your emails and texts in case you have been offered home quarantine. We want as many people as possible taking up this opportunity and the best way they can do that is by getting vaccinated as quickly as possible. That will help keep our whole community safe. We want Queenslanders to return home. We will work with them to get them home safely and also to protect our Queensland communities.