




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

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 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): Go the Phins! How good is today? Double-donut day and the Dolphins getting the NRL bid—it does not get any better than that. I congratulate Tony Murphy, Bob Jones and the whole team at the Redcliffe Leagues Club and the Dolphins. For all of their life members and members and supporters right across the region, this is such a great day. Sorry, Minister for Sport, we could not wait. We had to get in and celebrate. I know there are a number of my colleagues across Moreton Bay who will be celebrating this fantastic news. This is great for our local economy and for the economy right across the region as well.

Also great news is that Queensland is rapidly expanding its network of vaccination hubs—maybe we should set one up at the Dolphins!—as we turbocharge our efforts to bring the vaccine to more Queenslanders. Already more than 70 per cent of eligible Queenslanders have received their first dose, with over 52 per cent fully vaccinated. We want to grow those numbers by giving Queenslanders even more vaccination options. It is great that we can partner with Bunnings as part of our mass vaccination push.

This weekend, 33 Bunnings outlets—we have Bunnings popping up everywhere now—will operate as vaccination hubs, offering the vaccine to shoppers or if anyone who just wants to come along for a sausage sizzle and get the vaccine we do not care. Just pop along to your local Bunnings and make sure you get the jab this weekend.

For months now Queensland Health vaccination centres, GPs and community pharmacies have played a crucial role getting Queenslanders vaccinated. Schools also became a part of our vaccination rollout from last weekend, with 18 Queensland high schools administering 4,467 doses of the vaccine on Saturday and Sunday. Thank you to those schools. I know they got a bit competitive. They were competing against each other for vaccination numbers which is fantastic. We want to thank all of the school communities who came out.

Schools of course are a trusted part of so many local communities and the perfect place to increase our vaccination uptake as last weekend shows. That is why I am very pleased to announce, as the Premier has this morning, that our pharmacists will be offering to go into our high schools to vaccinate our kids. These school vaccinations will start in Far North Queensland. We know how important it is to get our vaccination rates up in Far North Queensland. I want to thank the community pharmacies and also the Pharmacy Guild of Queensland for offering this service and for being willing to go into our schools.

This means more students aged 12 and above will be eligible to receive the vaccine in their own school from a trusted local pharmacist. We will work closely with the Pharmacy Guild to get more vaccines into our schools through pharmacists so that more kids can get protected from COVID-19 because we have seen in most recent outbreaks how quickly it can spread through the schools and the school community.

In more great news for our vaccination rollout, from this week there will also be additional pop-up clinics operating across Brisbane. New pop-up clinics will be located at Brisbane City Hall and the Brisbane Disability Expo at the Royal International Convention Centre at Bowen Hills. The Brisbane City Hall pop-up vaccination clinic which commences today is well located to target city workers and visitors. If you are passing by and yet to be vaccinated, or due for your second dose, please come forward. Make it a priority to get vaccinated. Come before or after work or on your lunchbreak. I say to employers: it is in your best interest to give your staff time to pop down during work hours to get vaccinated. It will help support your workplace and the continuity of work when your staff are vaccinated.

The upcoming Brisbane Disability Expo this Friday and Saturday will provide a further opportunity for thousands of people with disability to get the support and information they need to access services and enhance their lives in meaningful and practical ways. Queensland Health staff will be available at the disability expo to talk with people and their carers about the vaccination and to help them make informed decisions about getting vaccinated. Let us be clear: to protect your freedom and map a clear path to the future, we all need to get vaccinated.