




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): We have always said that vaccinating our population would be no small feat given our decentralised state. Today, I stand proud to say that more than 75 per cent of Queenslanders aged 16 years and older have received at least one dose and more than 60 per cent are now fully vaccinated. It is great to see our fully vaccinated rates are steadily climbing—with a four per cent increase last week. People are continuing to come forward for first doses. This is thanks to Queensland Health, our GPs, our community pharmacies as well as the many organisations we have partnered with to facilitate pop-up vaccination clinics. Most importantly, it is due to the over three million Queenslanders aged 16 years and over who have had at least one dose and almost 2.5 million Queenslanders who are now fully vaccinated.

Across the state, as vaccine supply has become available, health workers have worked tirelessly to get the vaccine to the people of Queensland. We started with our elderly and can now proudly boast that for our 70-year-olds and over more than 95 per cent have had one dose of vaccine and 83.73 per cent are now fully vaccinated. Our seniors have led the way. It is now up to the rest of our eligible Queenslanders to show our appreciation to our seniors by stepping up and getting our vaccinations as well.

Our plan to reunite families is clear. At 70 per cent double dosed, Queenslanders and soon-to-be Queenslanders can arrive by plane and home quarantine if they can meet the requirements set by the government. At 80 per cent fully vaccinated or 17 December, whichever comes sooner, anyone from any state or territory in Australia will be able to travel into Queensland by any means of transport and not quarantine as long as they are fully vaccinated and have had a negative COVID-19 test. Many international arrivals will also be able to home quarantine. At 90 per cent fully vaccinated we will have even more freedoms.

All this is possible because of the great work of the Palaszczuk government based on the best health advice and the willingness of Queenslanders to protect our communities and support our way of life. With more vaccine coming into Queensland and more options to get vaccinated, it has never been easier. Whether it is at a Bunnings, a football match, a surf lifesaving club, a local community centre, a TAFE or one of our many amazing schools, people can roll up to a site and roll up their sleeves to get jabbed.

Last Saturday was truly a Super Saturday with more than 28,000 doses administered in just one day, including at 116 schools. I think it is important to note that 86 per cent of the vaccines administered at our school sites were to people receiving their first dose. Well done to all those students and their families and the community. This impressive figure reflects the fact that Queenslanders are heeding the call of the Palaszczuk government to get vaccinated against COVID-19 before it is too late.

It is not just the Palaszczuk government ministers who are travelling across the state; it is the vaccine clinics themselves. We have been ramping up our outreach clinics across the state in rural and remote areas. Last week our clinics went to Cooktown, Mapoon, Wujal Wujal, Napranum, Ayr, Doomadgee and Laura. This week outreach clinics are going to Mornington Island, Urandangi, Miles, Dajarra, Lakeland and Charters Towers. We are working closely with many local communities to ensure everyone has access to reliable information, to give them the confidence to get the vaccine and keep themselves and their loved ones safe. Queenslanders, let us reunite our families, strengthen our economy and protect our community. There is no time to waste—come out, get jabbed, stay safe.