



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


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2021

**MOTION**

**Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (3.54 pm): I move—

That this House endorses the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination of all workers in Queensland healthcare settings as a condition of employment, as recommended by AHPPC.

We are very proud of the stance we have taken to require vaccination of the health workforce across our HHSs—all those employees who are required to work in hospitals on a regular or even infrequent basis—to ensure that we keep our staff safe, to ensure we have the staff capacity to look after patients and to ensure that we keep patients and the community safe. This is fully backed by the AHPPC. It has recommended that the health workforce be vaccinated.

It is sad that we have to move this motion to finally get the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mudgeeraba to say one way or the other whether they support the mandatory vaccination of the health workforce. We seemed to get an indication earlier this morning that the Leader of the Opposition was all ready to go and keen to debate this motion. If they do get up shortly and say yes to this, my question is: what took them so long? Why have they been avoiding this conversation? Every journalist has asked them in front of a camera or on radio all around the state a very simple question and they have fudged it every single time.

It is interesting that the member for Mudgeeraba, who claims to be on the side of nurses, would rather back in a fake union and their position by not condemning their challenge around mandatory vaccination, by not condemning their stance of posting anti-vax sentiment and by not condemning them for standing up in rallies with offensive barriers and banners around them which display anti-vax sentiments. We should not be surprised because the member for Mudgeeraba was also the person who called 64 times for the borders to be opened, who voted against the nurse-to-patient ratio and who formed part of the government that cut funding in health and sacked health workers.

I look forward to hearing, once and for all, whether the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mudgeeraba can give a straight answer and not say, 'If you can guarantee there are no unintended consequences.' AHPPC said that there will be unintended consequences, but the unintended consequences are far outweighed by the virus and what it will do to our health workforce. Leader of the Opposition: do you support the mandate; yes or no?