




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR HILL

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ADJOURNMENT

Coronavirus, Vaccination and Quarantine

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.20 pm): Vaccination mandates segregated a section of our society simply because of their belief in their right to make a personal choice. Queenslanders' rights were trampled upon during this period. I have no doubt that the loss of valuable healthcare workers and long-term mental health issues because of lockdowns and mandates will cost our economy millions, if not billions, over the years to come.

The other issue we faced over the past two years was forced hotel quarantine. I have spoken to a number of North Queenslanders who have failed to be granted a quarantine fee waiver after being told verbally that they would receive one. Even worse, when they have applied for a review of their fee waiver application, it has taken up to 10 months before being knocked back and issued with a 14-day payment demand notice of thousands of dollars. I will outline one such case and the ridiculous circumstances surrounding their forced quarantine.

As part of Brett Drockman's employment, he was working on a project at Olympic Dam in South Australia for which he was required to travel from Cairns to Adelaide. While he was in the air travelling, the South Australian and Queensland governments changed their COVID restrictions for travel. On being informed of changes upon landing at Adelaide Airport, Brett arranged with his employer for the earliest available flight back to Cairns, which was the next day. Brett stayed overnight in a hotel which is directly linked via sliding doors to the Adelaide Airport terminal, so he never left the airport. Brett applied for a border pass into Queensland that day and received his approval to fly back to Cairns.

While waiting to board the flight, passengers from Adelaide and surrounds were arriving at the airport in private vehicles which had travelled through hotspots to the airport. Brett confirmed during conversations with some passengers while waiting to board that these same people were not detained for quarantine at Cairns Airport. Upon landing at Cairns Airport, as Brett was walking into the airport terminal building, police were assessing travel movements and place of residence. After checking his driver's licence for his place of residence in Queensland and his travel movements in the previous 24 hours, he was informed that he would have to go into forced quarantine for 14 days, costing him thousands.

I also know of one elderly lady in her 80s who is losing sleep because she fears she will go to jail after receiving constant invoices demanding payment for her forced hotel quarantine. I call on this government to review all forced hotel quarantine charges.