



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


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 June 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Coronavirus, Fever Clinics**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): Queensland's world-class pandemic response, which has saved thousands of lives and helped protect our economy, would not have been possible without our network of fever clinics. Our testing capacity has been one of our most important weapons in keeping this virus contained by confirming cases quickly and taking swift action to head off further transmission. Fever clinics were particularly critical before the COVID vaccine became available.

Today I can announce that because they have done their job so well Queensland Health's standalone fever clinics are now winding down. The staff who have been operating fever clinics will now return to their normal roles to help manage the growing demand on our health services. We are at the stage of the pandemic at which we can, and should, direct our health resources to where they are needed most. This means that we can focus more on delivering essential health care. Fever clinics were always a temporary measure, and transitioning our clinical expertise back to hospitals and frontline health services was always part of the plan. This will help our hospitals manage the increasing demand for services during our busy winter period.

While PCR testing will continue to be available at a small number of Queensland Health locations across Queensland, particularly in areas where other testing options are limited, the focus is now firmly on RAT kits. Queenslanders should use a rapid antigen test kit when they have COVID-19 symptoms. They should isolate if they test positive and they should stay home while they have acute respiratory symptoms. In total, 108 standalone testing facilities were rolled out during the pandemic, with the first two established on the Gold Coast and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Public sites have performed around 4.3 million tests throughout the course of the pandemic.

I would like to offer my wholehearted thanks to the frontline health professionals who have been part of our COVID-19 testing network. I also want to applaud the private pathology providers for their support, and of course Pathology Queensland, particularly during peak periods. It is great news that we can now move to lifting some mandatory vaccinations. Once again I would like to reiterate that the vaccine is the best way to protect the community and your loved ones from COVID. If you are yet to get vaccinated, come forward now for the free COVID vaccine. The vaccine can save your life and the lives of others.