




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Meningococcal B; Vaccination

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.44 am): The Miles government is delivering Queenslanders free, high-quality health care closer to home. Whether it is backing our health staff with more resources or better facilities or finding ways to vaccinate our kids against a deadly disease, the Miles Labor government is bringing compassionate ideas and putting more money on the table.

When I became the health minister, I promised Queenslanders that I would listen to them, and that is what we as a government have done. We listened to the heartbreaking story of Blair and Jodie Fidler, who lost their daughter, Bella, to meningococcal B in 2022. I listened to Phoebe, who survived the deadly disease and who, with her mother, Katy, has been pushing for more widespread understanding and immunisation programs. Our government listened and we have acted.

Today I am proud to say that thousands and thousands of young Queenslanders are receiving a free vaccine against meningococcal B for the first time. Since we launched the meningococcal B vaccination program on 1 March, we have already administered over 17,800 doses to infants, children and teenagers and, in wonderful news for our young people, more than 60 per cent of those doses have been administered to infants under two.

I want to give a particular shout-out to our incredible general practitioners of Queensland. They have led the charge in the fight to vaccinate our kids against meningococcal B. GPs in Queensland have already administered almost 11,000 doses. I want to again take this opportunity to remind Queensland families that infants and teenagers aged 15 to 19 are eligible to receive a free meningococcal B vaccine through their GP, as well as community vaccination clinics, pharmacies and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services.

I recently visited Browns Plains State High School with the Deputy Premier to meet some of the year 10 students receiving their vaccine. It was wonderful to see so many young people getting immunised against this very dangerous disease. Meningococcal B is a horrifying, deadly disease. It just makes sense that we vaccinate the next generation against it.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FENTIMAN: I am actually thanking constituents of the member for Currumbin. You would think she might listen to this statement in silence. I again want to thank advocates like Blair, Jodie, Phoebe and Katie for pushing for this change. Because of them, Queensland parents can rest easy knowing their children are immunised. This is their legacy and their win, and it is one they should be proud of.