

CORONAVIRUS — VACCINATIONS — AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

**810. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I refer to the damning report tabled by the Auditor General last week that makes multiple findings about the failures of the WA vaccine rollout and to the Auditor General's comment on 6PR Radio that there is a shameful gap of disadvantage for vulnerable cohorts of Western Australians. Was it the Premier or the Minister for Health who failed to ensure that the Department of Health had specific measurable targets and comprehensive plans for the roll out of the vaccine across WA?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

Madam Speaker, I have got a copy of the report here. The report's conclusion is this —

In an environment of uncertain supply and demand, the COVID-19 vaccination program in WA has been largely effective in delivering injections for the vast majority of people.

That is what it says. That is its conclusion. I will go further. This is what it also says —

A mix of delivery approaches by the Commonwealth and State governments has been an effective way to accelerate vaccination rates and make efficient use of vaccine supplies. The Department predicts that it will achieve its target for 80% of people aged 12 years and over in WA to be fully vaccinated by the end of 2021.

The first paragraph of the conclusion is that what we have done has been largely effective in delivering injections to the vast majority of people. That is what the Auditor General's report says. I do not understand why the Leader of the Opposition would be seeking to politicise this. That is what she had to say.

The reality is that in the Western Australian context, we did not receive the extra doses of Pfizer vaccine that Victoria and New South Wales did—the hundreds of thousands early on; we did not have the mass outbreak that New South Wales and Victoria had, which obviously spurred vaccination rates in those two states; and we did not receive the health advice that we could bring the period between first and second doses closer together, because of the existential threat that New South Wales and Victoria had. So obviously they are going to be ahead of us in the vaccination rollout. It stands to reason. It is basic sense.

But, despite that, our vaccination rate today for over 12-year-olds is 85 per cent. It is 72.9 per cent for over-12s, today. Since we announced our safe transition plan two weeks ago, the number of additional people who have received a first-dose vaccination is 120 000. We had all the doomsayers out there saying it would not work; people would not go and get vaccinated. That included the Leader of the Opposition. We had them all out there, saying that, running it all down, yet 120 000 Western Australians have gone to get their first-dose vaccination since we announced it two weeks ago. Obviously the program is working, despite all the doomsayers.

I will tell members what else. It would be great if the opposition actually went out there and said, "We support what the government is doing. This is not a time for politics." It would be great if the opposition did that. It is not a time for politics. We have some of the most vile and extreme threats out there in the community. How about you stop politicising this and support us in what we are trying to do!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!