

CORONAVIRUS — MANDATORY VACCINATION POLICY

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

Before I ask my question, on behalf of the member for Roe I acknowledge Dr Michael and Rachel Livingston, who are sitting in the Speaker's gallery. Dr Livingston is an excellent general practitioner in the Ravensthorpe, Hopetoun and Jerramungup area who has been nominated for the 2021 Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine's Distinguished Service Award.

I refer to the advice from the Chief Health Officer regarding mandatory vaccinations, specifically to the third last paragraph of his letter dated 19 October where it states —

Attachment 1 provides further guidance on current groups mandated, the next groups planned to be mandated (Group 1) and further groups where it is anticipated that further mandates may be required, either in the advent of an outbreak and subsequent lockdown or in preparation for opening of interstate and international borders, with subsequent outbreaks (Group 2).

- (1) Can the Premier confirm that the full advice, including attachment 1 as sent to the Premier by the Chief Health Officer, has been published?
- (2) Can the Premier explain why the Chief Health Officer advises that only further groups—that is, group 2—may be considered for mandates when the table he calls attachment 1 states that they must be vaccinated by 31 January 2022?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

- (1)–(2) Obviously, we had a lot of discussion about this between the Chief Health Officer, the Minister for Health and me. The Chief Health Officer is in full agreement with the table that we published that all those groups must be vaccinated by the time frame we have indicated. As the member correctly quoted, the letter does indicate that it is in the lead-up to the opening of the international and interstate borders. At some point in time, the commonwealth will open international borders and the state will open interstate borders to New South Wales and Victoria. Clearly, having all these groups vaccinated is absolutely necessary.

I urge the opposition to be supportive and constructive about what we are trying to do and to stop undermining it.