

CORONAVIRUS — VACCINATIONS — TARGET

**662. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:**

Minister, you did not actually answer the question. I have a supplementary question. Would it not be better to link all these announcements into a cohesive plan so that everyone in Western Australia understands what you are working towards and we can get people rolling up to get vaccinated, sooner rather than later?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Answer from the Minister for Health, please.

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

We all know that the mission here is to live with COVID, and that is why we are undertaking an extensive process of making sure we work with all interests in the community, particularly our employer and employee groups, making sure we listen to the science, not to Hon Nick Goiran, and making sure that we take the opportunity to consult widely with the community on what is the best way that we step forward. What we do know is that the Western Australian community have done an outstanding job in protecting themselves and each other by observing all the things that we need to make sure that we do to get through the global pandemic. Of course, what everyone in Western Australia—not everyone, but what everyone in Western Australia knows is that the mission at the moment is about getting vaccinated. Of course, we are all appalled by the behaviour of those who would seek to threaten both leaders in the community and their families who are promoting vaccination and the importance of making sure that we can all get vaccinated because we know that it is effective, safe and that it is what will keep each other safe.

You wonder about why these people continue to persist with this activity, this insidious dangerous activity. I saw it this morning—intimidating members of Parliament as they came in today. That is because, in the world of social media, there are people who are encouraging them—people who are encouraging them day to day. It is not necessarily in their words. It is often coded language like, “You don’t need to tell someone if you are vaccinated or not. You don’t need to listen to the science. Why should you be compelled to get yourself vaccinated.?” We know where this code is coming from. This code is coming from those opposite.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr R.H. COOK:** Hon Nick Goiran is the one who is giving succour and encouragement to these people who are threatening leaders in the community, including the Premier and his family.

Several members interjected.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** He is the one—he and others who you listen to.

**Dr D.J. Honey** How disgraceful!

**Mr R.H. COOK:** We know the language, member!

**The SPEAKER:** If you pause for a moment, minister. Member for Cottesloe, your consistent and repetitive interjections are inciting everyone else to interject. Can I ask you for you to —

**Dr D.J. Honey:** It started before me!

**The SPEAKER:** Would you like to be the first person to be asked to leave? No? If you would not, you will not answer back to the Speaker, thank you; and perhaps reflect on your behaviour during question time today. Minister.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** We have people who are threatening the lives of politicians, namely, the Premier; threatening his family, threatening the schools that his family go to. Who are these people and who is encouraging them? We know who is encouraging them, and that is those who use that language. It is not the words, member for Cottesloe; it is the coded language. It is the coded language that says —

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I have a point of order.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** The point of order will be heard in silence.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Madam Speaker, the minister —

**Mr M. McGowan:** Moron! You’re a first-rate idiot.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Pardon!

**Mr M. McGowan:** You are.

**The SPEAKER:** Premier, I have said that the point of order will be heard in silence. I hope that it is a point of order. For the information of all members, I will rule on the point of order, not anyone else, and I require no advice from any of you.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** The Premier audibly across the chamber just called me a moron. I ask that he withdraw it, and I have a second point of order in relation to the Minister for Health and the comments he made.

**The SPEAKER:** That was subsequent to standing to make a point of order. I would like to hear the point of order that you were going to make in the first place.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** My point of order, Madam Speaker, is that the Minister for Health is impugning the character of a member in the other place—directly impugning the character of a member in the other place. It is malicious and false.

**The SPEAKER:** There is a clear ruling on that. There is no point of order on that. On the other point of order that you raised, I ask that the Premier withdraw that.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I withdraw.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr R.H. COOK:** It is not the words; it is the language. It is the communication. We know what is happening here. I am not impugning Hon Nick Goiran's character. I am impugning his behaviour and the signals that he is sending to these people that it is okay to prosecute these lies. It is okay to prosecute this anger. It is okay to prosecute and threaten those who encourage that people get vaccinated and stay safe.

There is a call that needs to be made, member for Cottesloe, and it is not a call to order; it is a call to you! You are the Leader of the Liberal Party. This is a test for you.

**Dr D.J. Honey** interjected.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** This is a test for you, member for Cottesloe. As the Leader of the Liberal Party, you have a very single and important chore—that is, pull your man in line or accept that he is actually the leader of your party and resign.