



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP  
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services  
Leader of the House

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Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliament  
George Street  
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24 MAR 2022

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3675-21, tabled in Parliament on 22 February 2022, in relation to the request for the Queensland Government to stop vaccinations immediately.

COVID-19 vaccines are a proven, safe and effective means of reducing both the risk of infection and transmission. Individuals who become infected despite vaccination (break-through infection) are at reduced risk of transmitting due to a generally lower viral load and shortened duration of shedding.

Mutations, or variants, are almost always created where a virus can spread quickly and unhindered. With no innate immunity to COVID-19, COVID-19 transmission and infection occurs at the highest rate among unvaccinated people. The best way to reduce the risk of a variant occurring is to reduce the amount of viral reproduction within people and reduce the number of people infected.

Unfortunately, there has been a lot of misinformation in the community about vaccination. While it is true that we are seeing hospitalisations and deaths among vaccinated people, including people who have had boosters, this should not be considered evidence that the vaccines are not effective. It is important we all continue to emphasise this message to the community.

Data from the United Kingdom shows that the vaccine remains 75-85 per cent effective against hospitalisation following infection with the Omicron variant after 4-6 months from when a COVID-19 booster is received. Vaccinations remain crucial and are particularly effective against the more severe outcomes of COVID-19 disease, including hospitalisation, Intensive Care Unit admission and death.

Queensland data shows that there is a significant increase in the likelihood of hospitalisation for people who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 and that the likelihood of being hospitalised increases with age. That is why it is particularly important for our older and more vulnerable Queenslanders to get vaccinated and to have their booster shots.

We will continue to see vaccinated and unvaccinated people needing hospital care and, unfortunately, dying of the COVID-19 disease. However, this number will be much lower than would have been experienced without the high level of vaccine coverage we have achieved in Queensland.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



**YVETTE D'ATH MP**  
**Minister for Health and Ambulance Services**  
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