



Premier of Queensland  
Minister for the Olympics



**Brisbane 2032**  
Olympic and Paralympic  
Games Host  
*Queensland*



For reply please quote: *CAPS/AT – TF/22/5294 – DOC/22/49235*

28 March 2022

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 3676-21 about COVID-19 vaccinations, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 24 February 2022.

Queensland has had a successful pandemic response, with the community enjoying higher levels of freedoms than most jurisdictions in Australia and overseas while maintaining one of the lowest morbidity and mortality rates in the world.

COVID-19 vaccines are a proven, safe and effective means of reducing both the risk of infection and transmission. Vaccination against COVID-19 remains a key determinant of positive health outcomes for all Queenslanders, and my Government has taken an active role in encouraging all eligible Queenslanders to get vaccinated.

Vaccination against COVID-19, or an appropriate exemption, is required to enter some non-essential premises in Queensland, such as cafes and restaurants, under the Chief Health Officer Direction Public Health and Social Measures linked to vaccination status (No. 4). This Direction applies equally to everyone, including Members of the Legislative Assembly and Queensland Police Service staff.

Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policies have been implemented by some workplaces and premises, such as the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland parliamentary precinct, which operate in addition to the Chief Health Officer's Direction.

The Queensland Parliament operates in accordance with directives issued by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, which are outlined under the Parliament House COVID-Safe Plan. In accordance with a directive issued by the Speaker, which took effect on 18 December 2021, no person over 16 years of age can enter the parliamentary precinct unless they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have an appropriate exemption.

Members of the Legislative Assembly who are entering the parliamentary precinct for the conduct of their parliamentary business are automatically exempt from the Speaker's directive (see section 50(7) of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1988*).

While it is not mandatory for members of the Legislative Assembly to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend Parliament, they are not automatically exempt from the Chief Health Officer's Direction which applies to other venues and must comply like all other Queenslanders.

In relation to employees of the Queensland Police Service, the Police Commissioner has issued a direction requiring Queensland Police Service employees to be fully vaccinated. Only those employees with an approved exemption, provided in certain circumstances such as medical contraindication, are exempt from the Police Commissioner's Direction. As per the Direction, exemptions are only granted in rare, exceptional circumstances. The latest advice I have received is that 98.93 per cent of employees are compliant with the Commissioner's Direction.

I hope this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'A' followed by a long horizontal line.

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP  
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND  
MINISTER FOR THE OLYMPICS**