



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

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30 SEP 2022

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliament  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to petition number 3773-22, tabled in Parliament on 31 August 2022, in relation to data regarding the impacts of COVID-19 vaccination in the community.

The COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in Australia have been thoroughly assessed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration and provisionally approved due to their safety and efficacy. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation also provides recommendations on how these approved vaccines should be administered, including age groups and number of doses. This framework ensures all Australians are kept safe with up-to-date, expert health-lead advice about COVID-19 vaccination.

Additionally, all COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in Australia are highly effective at preventing serious disease and death. This is important for our community as we do not want individuals put at unnecessary risk of being hospitalised or dying from COVID-19 because they were unvaccinated. This is particularly important in older adults as real-world data and clinical trials show how effective the vaccines are at keeping these cohorts safe from severe disease and death.

Booster doses have become critical to ensure a person has the best protection against severe disease and death due to the waning effects from vaccination and infection-acquired immunity. Staying up-to-date with the recommended COVID-19 vaccination schedule is important.

Throughout Queensland's three waves of COVID-19 infection in 2022, we have seen first-hand the extraordinary impact of having a highly vaccinated population. We saw waves that were less severe, with fewer hospitalisations and deaths, and peaked earlier than modelled; this is in large part due to high rates of vaccination. For example, during the recent third wave, people aged 65 years or older who had received their fourth dose within the preceding four months were two times less likely to be hospitalised and die with COVID-19 compared to people of the same age who had only received two or fewer doses of COVID-19 vaccine. This demonstrates just how vital up-to-date vaccination is for our older and vulnerable cohorts.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Yvette D'ATH". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "Y".

**YVETTE D'ATH MP**  
**Minister for Health and Ambulance Services**  
**Leader of the House**