

CORONAVIRUS — VACCINATIONS

**418. Mr S.A. MILLMAN to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the state government's efforts in getting as many eligible Western Australians vaccinated as quickly as possible. Can the minister update the house on the expansion of the COVID-19 vaccination program to 16 to 29-year-olds; and can the minister update the house on the new vaccination clinic at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre?

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

Before I answer the question, on behalf of the member for Fremantle, I acknowledge Mattie Turnbull and the Curtin University planning students, who are in the gallery today.

I would like to thank the member for the question. It is a very important one because we are not safe until we are all safe. It is so important that people get the message: roll up for WA, make sure you get yourself vaccinated and make sure you protect yourself, your family and your community. We are absolutely obsessed about the idea that we need to increase the number of people in Western Australia who have been vaccinated. That is why we recently opened up vaccine eligibility to 16 to 29-year-olds. Now everyone between the ages of 16 and 59 years can get a Pfizer vaccine, while those aged 60 years and over can get the AstraZeneca vaccine, in an effort to make sure that we get everyone in Western Australia vaccinated as soon as possible. Following our announcement on Monday morning, a whopping 72 163 people between the ages of 16 and 29 booked their vaccinations, which is an outstanding result. There are now 112 000 people from that cohort either booked in for their vaccination or already vaccinated. That is a great outcome and really speaks volumes for the commitment of these young people to make sure that they do the right thing and get themselves vaccinated.

We are also vaccinating individuals aged 12 years and over who have underlying medical conditions. Those who live in remote communities or are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are also eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The expanded eligibility means that more than two million Western Australians are now eligible to be vaccinated.

Our objective is to vaccinate about 260 000 people during the blitz. As a result of the 70 000 extra vaccines we received from the Polish government via the commonwealth government, we are extending the blitz by another week. We will have 95 000 vaccines in the first week, 95 000 in the second week and about 70 000 in the third week. We need to make sure that we get everyone vaccinated. As part of that program, yesterday we opened a new vaccination centre at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. It will open from 8.30 am to 6.00 pm seven days a week as part of the state government's vaccination blitz, and from 30 August, the clinic will open from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday through Saturday. We are also opening a new clinic at Centrepont Midland shopping centre on 6 September.

More than 1.4 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have now been administered. We need to make sure that we continue to keep the pressure on to get everyone vaccinated. There is no other way out of this: there is no plan B; there is only plan V. Get yourself vaccinated, roll up for WA, protect yourself, protect your family and protect the community.