

CORONAVIRUS — VACCINATIONS

313. Ms C.M. ROWE to the Premier:

I refer to Western Australia's COVID-19 vaccination program and the state's effort to get as many eligible Western Australians vaccinated as quickly as possible.

- (1) Can the Premier update the house on the two-week vaccination blitz announced today and what that will mean for Western Australians?
- (2) Can the Premier outline why all eligible Western Australians should get vaccinated?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Belmont for the question. I also welcome everyone back after the break in the middle of the year. I acknowledge our Australian Olympians, who are doing so well in Tokyo as we speak. I would like to especially acknowledge our swimmers, particularly the women's swimming team, who have done outstandingly well. I also acknowledge Western Australia's own Annabelle McIntyre, who started out at the Fremantle Rowing Club and who has now won gold in the women's coxless four. What a terrific achievement! I also acknowledge Matt Wearn from the Fremantle Sailing Club, who won gold in the sailing Laser class. That was a brilliant achievement. And, of course, I know that we are all cheering for Peter Bol tomorrow. What a great story and what a great human being. Like everyone, I hope that he does well tomorrow in the 800 metres.

- (1)–(2) The government is determined to get as many people vaccinated as possible. COVID-19 is out there—in the eastern states, around the world and on planes and ships. Last week, we had a record week for vaccinations, with more than 57 000 COVID-19 vaccines administered in our state-run community clinics. That means that over 1.1 million vaccines have been administered in Western Australia. But we need to continue this momentum, so this morning the Minister for Health and I announced that from 16 August the state will undertake a two-week vaccination blitz. That will mean that Western Australians aged between 30 and 39 years of age who have already registered can book an appointment at one of our state-run clinics. As of just now, 12 685 eligible 30 to 39-year-olds had made a booking since this morning's announcement. This will be for the Pfizer vaccination, which, of course, these people are eligible for. All other Western Australians who were not already registered will be able to book an appointment from 9 August, which is about a week from now. Over the two-week blitz period, 140 000 appointments for the Pfizer vaccine will be on offer for eligible Western Australians. That will be the highest number that we have offered so far. Also, on 16 August, we will open a CBD clinic at the Perth Convention Centre. We will also expand the opening hours and staffing levels at state-run clinics as we get more vaccine supplies to hand, particularly supplies of the Pfizer vaccine.

We urge all Western Australians when they become eligible to get themselves vaccinated. We have not had as strong a vaccination take-up as New South Wales, but as a state we have not received the extra supply that New South Wales has, nor have we had the big outbreak that occurred in NSW, which, of course, encourages more people to get vaccinated. Obviously, we do not want an outbreak and we are fighting as hard as we can to stop an outbreak coming this way. At the same time, we need Western Australians to go out and get vaccinated. I urge every member in this place to encourage your family and friends, your community and your electorate to go and get vaccinated as soon as they possibly can. It will save lives. It will save your family, your parents and your grandparents, and potentially yourself. Go and get vaccinated!