

CORONAVIRUS — VACCINATIONS — TRANSITION PLAN

1200. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the government's plan to reopen the state once the target of 90 per cent of eligible people being double vaccinated is met and the fact that Western Australia has the lowest vaccination rate in the country.

- (1) By what date will the inability to reach the 90 per cent target, if that happens, be considered a failure of the government's vaccination program?
- (2) What is the expected impact on the state's economy if the target is not met by that date?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Achieving 90 per cent double-dose vaccination coverage means fewer people will become very sick, need hospital care or die from COVID-19. Around 88 per cent of eligible Western Australians have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccination and nearly 80 per cent have received two doses. This was as at 7 December. I note the Auditor General's recent report into WA's COVID-19 vaccination rollout, which states —

In an environment of uncertain supply and demand, the COVID-19 vaccination program in WA has been largely effective in delivering injections for the vast majority of people.

Instead of constantly undermining the vaccination rollout, all political parties should join the state government in encouraging all eligible Western Australians to get vaccinated.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Please allow Hansard the opportunity to record the contribution.

Hon SUE ELLERY: This is important, President, and it is important that people hear this next bit.

- (2) The Western Australian economy is easily the strongest in Australia and one of the most successful in the world.