

CORONAVIRUS — MANDATORY VACCINATIONS — MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS

**842. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the minister representing the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the commonwealth government's COVID-19 frequently asked questions on exemptions to mandatory COVID-19 vaccination in residential aged care.

- (1) Is the minister aware that the South Australian public health order sets out that a temporary medical exemption can be granted for persons who are pregnant?
- (2) Is pregnancy a reason for a temporary medical exemption from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine in Western Australia?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer is provided on behalf of the Minister for Health.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Exemptions on the grounds of pregnancy were previously available from the commonwealth's Australian Immunisation Register. The Australian Immunisation Register immunisation medical exemption form, IM011, however, has recently been amended with regard to exemptions due to pregnancy. The form now provides that a medical exemption due to pregnancy applies to live attenuated vaccines only. None of the approved COVID-19 vaccines are live attenuated vaccines. Therefore, pregnancy alone is no longer grounds for a medical exemption. This accords with the current advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation, or ATAGI, and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, or RANZCOG, which is that pregnant women should be vaccinated.