



Office of the  
Premier of Queensland  
Minister for the Olympics



**Brisbane 2032**  
Olympic and Paralympic  
Games Host  
*Queensland*



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Dear Senator

Thank you for your letter of 19 October 2021 regarding Queensland and the Nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, also addressed to the Honourable Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister of Australia. I have been requested to reply to you on behalf of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics.

The Queensland Government has listened to the advice of Queensland's Chief Health Officer (CHO) and medical experts from across Australia, in ensuring that appropriate, proportionate measures are in place to protect Queenslanders from the spread of COVID-19. These measures, which are made by Queensland's CHO under the *Public Health Act 2005* (Qld), have played an integral role in ensuring Queensland can continue its success in containing and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

Queenslanders should be proud of how they have faced the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the strong response to COVID-19, and the success in maintaining low numbers of positive cases, the health system has not experienced significant disruption and widespread suspensions to important services, as has been seen in other parts of Australia and around the world.

That success means Queensland is now transitioning to the next phase of the response in line with the four-phase *National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 Response* (the National Plan). The National Plan outlines a path forward from the current COVID-19 response focused on continued suppression of community transmission, to post-vaccination settings focused on prevention of serious illness, hospitalisation, and fatality, and managing COVID-19 like other infectious diseases. Further details on the National Plan are available from the Federal Government's website at [www.australia.gov.au/national-plan](http://www.australia.gov.au/national-plan).

The National Plan was informed by health modelling by the Doherty Institute and includes a threshold of 70 per cent vaccine coverage to enable transition from Phase A to B, and a threshold of 80 per cent to enable transition from Phase B to C. Each phase will include revised principles in relation to travel restrictions, lockdowns, and other public health safety measures. The Doherty Institute modelling is available on the Doherty Institute's website at [www.doherty.edu.au](http://www.doherty.edu.au) and click on (1) 'News & Events', (2) 'News', (3) 'Statement on the Doherty Institute modelling – final report to National Cabinet', (4) click on the link called 'Doherty Institute's modelling hub', then scroll down and click on (5) 'Doherty Modelling Report for National Cabinet – Revised – 10 August 2021'.

In line with the National Plan, on 18 October 2021, the Premier released Queensland's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan To Unite Families (the Plan). The Plan protects Queenslanders and charts the course through the next stage of the pandemic. Key features include greater freedoms for those who are fully vaccinated, including interstate and international travel.

As has been the case during the pandemic, the steps are measured and cautious and are underpinned by how quickly Queenslanders protect themselves and others by getting vaccinated.

Building on this, on 9 November 2021, the Premier announced Queensland's Public Health and Social Measures linked to vaccination status – a plan for 80 per cent and beyond, providing details on business, leisure and social activities that can occur depending on vaccination status. This provides certainty for business and confidence for Queenslanders to safely go about their lives. The most important action individuals can take is to get vaccinated. With over 80 per cent of Queenslanders 16 years and older having received their first dose, we are on track to achieve 80 per cent fully vaccinated by 17 December 2021. Detailed information about the COVID-19 vaccines including effectiveness, side effects and vaccine development and testing is available on the Queensland Government website at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au) and click on (1) 'Health and wellbeing', (2) 'COVID-19' and then (3) 'COVID-19 vaccines'.

Together, these arrangements consolidate the very real freedoms that all Queenslanders have continued to enjoy throughout the pandemic. In turn, this has allowed the economic recovery to commence earlier and more effectively than other Australian jurisdictions. Since March 2020, more people have become employed in Queensland (90,000) than all other states and territories combined. Queensland's unemployment rate had fallen to 5.1 per cent in October 2021, below its pre-pandemic rate of 5.8 per cent in March 2020. State final demand grew by 4.6 per cent to the June quarter compared with pre-COVID levels, above the rest of Australia.

I understand that the Prime Minister intends to respond separately, with further information on areas outlined in your letter for which the Federal Government is responsible.

Again, thank you for writing to the Premier on these matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Murphy', written in a cursive style.

**JIM MURPHY**  
**CHIEF OF STAFF**