



In reply please quote: NB:mb

22 October 2021

Public Accountability Committee

Re: NSW Government's handling of the COVID-19 Pandemic – request to amend evidence

I refer to the above inquiry and request an amendment to the evidence I provided on Friday 17th September 2021 as follows:

- On four (4) occasions I incorrectly stated that staff in Correctional Centres were required to have received 1 dose of a vaccine by 30 September 2021.
- The correct date for these staff to have received their first dose of a vaccine is 25 October 2021.
- My error stems from the fact that Police employees were required to receive their first vaccination by the 30th September 2021, an area that we also have members.

I have detailed the occasions I referred to the incorrect date below for reference. On all occasions the date 25 October 2021 should be read in its place.

- *Mr BRADSHAW: Thank you. I also would like to acknowledge the country that we all meet on and pay my respect to Elders, past, present and emerging. I firstly apologise for Nicole Jess, who is the Chair of the Prison Officers' Vocational Branch and is unwell. I am stepping in as the industrial manager that looks after the justice sector of our membership. Our members that work in this setting in and around correctional centres turn up to work every day under enormous pressure and new ways in which they are doing their job when it comes to practices and safeguards in place to minimise the risk, not only to staff but to the inmates as well. They do so, like I said, in a political environment with a lot of misinformation about vaccines and their effectiveness. However, there has been an announcement of mandatory vaccination for staff. Our members recognise that there is a risk there in those settings, a risk that also exists for the inmates as well, which does give rise to the question: If vaccinations are mandated for staff, with the first dose to be received **by 30 September**, what is the plan to vaccinate or to possibly mandate vaccination for inmates? It is a question that our members are also asking to minimise the risk not only to staff but the risk that exists to the inmates as well. Thank you.*
- *Mr BRADSHAW: Yes, the deadline for the first dose is **30 September**, the end of the month. There has been more than one round of vaccinations rolled out to the centres. Our members, however, in regional areas do report the same issues as the previous speaker when it comes to gaining access not only to a vaccine but the vaccine that either their GP has recommended or that they have a preference*

for. Also I believe that the members are reporting that they should have the ability to gain that vaccine from their GP. For some members, they are having problems, if they are seeking an exemption for medical reasons, with gaining those appointments in time. However, the access to the vaccine—there have been issues but mainly in regional areas.

- *Mr BRADSHAW: It is certainly stretched to the limit. I do not think that is an unfair statement. I know that the casual pool is reaching the limits. I am aware of a number of staff that have been recalled, that were not in active duty so to speak. The pressures are there. Certainly, further increases in outbreaks are really going to strain the system. As well, from 30 September, if there is a sizable cohort of workers who cannot comply with the mandate and will not be at work, that will create further stresses on the workforce.*
- *Mr BRADSHAW: There are still discussions, but there is no doubt that the policy at the moment is that from 30 September you will not be allowed to turn up to work unless you have had one dose of vaccine.*

I apologise for any confusion caused to the Committee by my error, and would request this information is published.

Yours sincerely,

Nathan Bradshaw
Industrial Manager
Public Service Association of NSW