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MEDIA RELEASE

REV. NILE QUESTIONS INTEGRITY OF COVID VACCINE

For immediate circulation

As the public continues to be worried about aspects of the coronavirus vaccine that is planned to be used in Australia, Rev. Fred Nile has been putting these concerns on the record in the NSW Legislative Council. Below is a question posed by Rev Nile in yesterday's proceedings, extracted from *Hansard*.

COVID-19 VACCINE

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE (16:13:27): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, representing the health Minister. I refer to one of the vaccines that may be used in Australia, manufactured by Pfizer. Is the Minister aware of the report by The Defender, a United States-based children's health advocacy group, in which it was noted that several people have had severe side effects from the vaccine, that the vaccine being tested includes untested messenger RNA technology, that the company's products have a track record of causing 40 per cent of side effects on their patients, that in the past this company has had to pay out billions of dollars in criminal fines in the United States. Therefore, should we wait—
[Time expired.]

The PRESIDENT: I call the Hon. Walt Secord to order for the first time. I remind honourable members that the Chair and only the Chair dictates if a member is to resume his seat or not. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women) (16:14:57): I thank Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile for his question, which is directed to Minister Hazzard, who is the health Minister in the Legislative Assembly, who

I represent in this Chamber. Ensuring vaccine safety is central to planning for the rollout of COVID-19 vaccination in Australia. The Therapeutic Goods Administration rigorously assesses vaccines for safety, quality and efficacy before they can be used in Australia. Vaccines receive the same high level of scrutiny as other prescription medicines and related therapeutic goods.

New South Wales and Australia have effective existing vaccine surveillance systems that are being further enhanced in advance of a COVID-19 vaccine to improve safety monitoring and the timeliness of reporting. NSW Health is collaborating with experts at the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance to ensure that any adverse events following immunisation are detected and investigated in a timely manner. We have a very proud history of immunisation in this State and we have a very good program that has been extremely effective in terms of not only disease prevention but also monitoring and making sure that we keep track of that.

We have incredible scientists. We developed the human papillomavirus vaccine that has had an enormous effect in this State, particularly for young girls and women. It was developed by an Australian scientist and was an incredible program that we rolled out effectively. All members in this Chamber who have children know that this Government has a great record of immunisation and knowing who has been immunised. We have good Blue Books.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Hear, hear!

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR: It is a cross-party thing. We should be extremely proud of that. We have heard the stories before vaccinations in this State became so widely used and trusted. When we link that back to this COVID-19 vaccine, we have fantastic systems in place with fantastic processes. We have incredible scientists and I am so excited to hear of the research, development and processes that are bringing this vaccine about. I am very proud to be an Australian, knowing the way that this is being undertaken and the way it will be distributed. For the benefit of the House, New South Wales reported no new cases of locally acquired COVID-19 in the 24 hours to 8.00 p.m. last night and 8,588 tests were done. [*Time expired.*]

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