**Record of meeting between the Deputy Premier and Acting Minister for Health, Minister for Health and the Chief Health Officer**

24 January 2022 | 5pm

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Deputy Premier (Acting Minister for Health) The Hon. James Merlino

Minister for Health: The Hon. Martin Foley

Chief Health Officer: Adjunct Professor Brett Sutton

Secretary for Department of Health: Professor Euan Wallace

Deputy Secretary, Public Health Policy and Strategy: Nicole Brady

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Re: Handover regarding decisions made by Deputy Premier and Acting Minister for Health while Minister for Health was on leave.**

**Minister Foley**: I have read the CHO advice and followed the press conference from yesterday and am extraordinarily comfortable with the direction it is all headed in, with all of the measures, not least the mandate for third booster doses for education workers.

I understand that you have been extraordinarily consultative Deputy Premier, I would be interested to hear about that.

**Deputy Premier**: you are correct in all that you have said. I met with two principal peak bodies, the Victorian Principals Association and Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals, then Catholic Education Melbourne office, Independent Schools Victoria and the Early Learning Association.

It was overwhelmingly positive.

Across all the peak bodies and sector leaders there was overwhelming support for all of the public health measures and the third dose requirement.

Following the announcement there was very good feedback across the board.

So I can report back overwhelming support from the profession.

**Minister Foley**: I note in the Chief Health Officer advice [dated 23 January 2022] there are at para 34 five points (ventilation, masks, COVID Safe plans, rapid antigen tests and prompting vaccinations) all those elements have been picked up by Dept of Education and I am aware they are all substantially works in progress. Brett [Chief Health Officer], when do you think secondary students will get their third dose? Do you think the 8-week interval for those aged 5 to 11 years will shorten?

**Chief Health Officer:** On the third dose for secondary students, ATAGI will consider 16 and 17 year olds in the first instance, I expect in the next couple of weeks. Then they will progressively consider the younger cohorts, they will look at the safety data and evidence regarding waning for these cohorts.

I don’t think the dose interval will reduce from 8 weeks for the 5 to 11 year old.

**Minister Foley**: how are we tracking with Primary School kids first dose uptake?

**Deputy Premier**: Mid-February, we will get to 80% first dose. The rollout of Rapid Antigen tests, surgical masks and air purifiers is also going well.

**Minister Foley**: I am seeking the DET plan that is referred to in the CHO advice so I can read that as well, I believe that is in my electronic bag for tonight. I can envisage the consultation you conducted forming part of my Statement of Reasons and that feels like a good approach to be taking. This feels like a good position.

* Meeting ended -