



PRIME MINISTER

20 July 2021

Mrs Emma McArthur  
[ejminoz@gmail.com](mailto:ejminoz@gmail.com)

Dear Mrs McArthur

Thank you for writing to me about Australia's COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

The rollout continues at speed and to plan, with more than 10.2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines already administered in Australia.

A third of adults have had a first dose, including three-quarters of over 70 year olds.

First and second doses have been administered at all 2,566 Residential Aged Care Facilities.

Australians are taking up the vaccine at the rate of more than 900,000 doses every week – and that's great news. While vaccination is voluntary, I want as many Australians to get vaccinated as quickly as possible. The rollout of a safe and effective vaccine is vital to keeping Australians safe and to see us return to our usual way of life.

Known as Operation COVID Shield, the rollout is one of the largest logistics exercises our nation has seen. It is led by Lieutenant General John Frewen, who established the COVID-19 ADF Taskforce in 2020 and commanded military support during the Victorian second wave.

The vaccines themselves have been chosen based on expert medical advice.

Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved the AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines. Both vaccines are proven to generate robust immune responses in a majority of people and are highly effective at preventing severe disease, hospitalisation and death.

The TGA has rigorous standards and monitors the safety of all vaccines used in Australia.

Following advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI), the Pfizer vaccine is preferred for Australians under 60 years of age. The AstraZeneca vaccine is preferred for those aged 60 and over.

However recent adjustments to the rollout mean if you are aged 18 to 59, you may also book a first dose of AstraZeneca vaccine through your local GP. It is important that Australians in this age group discuss the risks and benefits of the AstraZeneca vaccine with your medical professional.

Pfizer appointments can currently be made for anyone aged 40-59 and Phase 1a and 1b eligible people under the age of 40.

The Commonwealth is fast tracking plans to expand access points. More than 5,000 GPs, 136 Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics (CVCs) and 158 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHOs) are currently delivering vaccines. From the end of July, GPs will increasingly administer the Pfizer vaccine as supplies increase, as well as the Moderna vaccine when supplies arrive in September/October.

Our rollout is progressing consistent with comparable countries that have successfully managed the COVID-19 pandemic.

Australia has five separate agreements to secure more than 195 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines – enough to cover the entire population several times over. Any spare doses will be used to support our partners in the Pacific and South East Asia.

Importantly, safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines are free of charge.

The nation remains on track to offer every eligible Australian a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by the end of 2021.

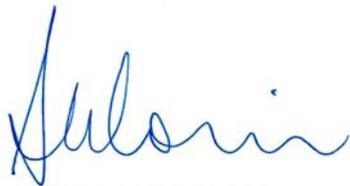
Vaccination is available from thousands of locations across the country – hospitals, GPs, pharmacies, respiratory clinics, Aboriginal health services and specialist vaccination clinics.

Bookings for can be made at [www.australia.gov.au](http://www.australia.gov.au)

To find out more, visit: [www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines](http://www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines)

Thank you again for writing to me.

Yours sincerely



SCOTT MORRISON