

## **Hard News Story 1**

Prime Minister Scott Morrison's speech last week outlines he is confident one in every two Australian's would have their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by August 19<sup>th</sup>.

The current statistic for Australia is 60.5 percent of citizens over the age of 16 have had their first dose.

Melbourne is currently going through a lockdown with 1,029 active cases of the Delta Variant, New South Wales is too struggling with 1,288 active cases.

With the two states in lockdowns many are feeling as though there is no end, but the PM said, "there is a light coming in from the end of that tunnel" and "every vaccination shines a light for Australia to see".

Tim Bull, the local Member of Parliament for East Gippsland said, "vaccination rates are on par with other regional Victorian areas" but said he was concerned "we are being left behind by vaccination rates in state run facilities in NSW and will not reach the 70 percent and 80 percent benchmarks until well after them at the current rate".

MP Bull said he wishes all to get vaccinated as he sees it to be only solution to leaving lockdowns in the past.

While East Gippsland has not had an active case for some time it is feared with the speed that the Dela Variant spreads more areas of regional Victoria will soon have active COVID cases.

The state is not set to be out of lockdown until 70 percent of Victorians over the age of 16 have had at least one dose of a vaccine and is in hope to hit the target before the beginning of November.

Student Journalist, Dakota Webster