

VACCINE ROLLOUT NSW 86.5% AUSTRALIA 75.5%

The Sydney Morning Herald

Friday, October 29, 2021 \$3.60 (inc GST)
First published 1831 No. 57,425

INDEPENDENT. ALWAYS.

**'PINCHING MYSELF'
CAVALLO
OVERWHELMED
BY SUPPORT**
SPORT



MICHAEL GUDINSKI
Music supremo
died with 12
drugs in system
NEWS PAGE 3



**Rapid COVID
tests rolled
out in schools**
NEWS PAGE 6



Secret couple talked of love, marriage, babies

Ex-premier: 'I'll throw money' at electorate

Lucy Cormack
State political reporter

Gladys Berejiklian and her then-boyfriend Daryl Maguire talked of love, marriage and even a baby during their secret five-year relationship, while the former premier promised to "throw money" at Mr Maguire's electorate days after he was forced to resign under a corruption cloud in 2018.

In a dramatic day of intercepted phone calls, text messages and emails, the state's corruption watchdog yesterday heard Mr Maguire's account of the "close personal relationship" now at the centre of an extended corruption probe.

Ms Berejiklian will begin two full days of evidence to the Independent Commission Against Corruption today, following nine days of

Why private details of relationship matter

This is not salaciousness for the sake of it.
ALEXANDRA SMITH
ANALYSIS PAGE 4



Damning words show why ex-premier had to resign

DEBORAH SNOW
ANALYSIS PAGE 4



testimony from bureaucrats, a former premier, former deputy premier and her ex-boyfriend: the disgraced former Wagga Wagga MP.

The inquiry is examining whether Ms Berejiklian breached the public trust or encouraged corrupt conduct during her undisclosed
Continued Page 4



Former Premier Gladys Berejiklian leaves home; inset a screenshot showing Daryl Maguire giving evidence to ICAC yesterday. Photo: Nick Moir

Libs were set to cross the floor to halt Nats

EXCLUSIVE

David Crowe
Chief political correspondent

Liberal MPs were so concerned federal cabinet would cave to demands from the Nationals on climate change policy they formed a secret group to push Prime Minister Scott Morrison on the issue, raising the prospect of crossing the floor in Parliament.

Worried the Nationals would block a crucial pledge to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, the Liberals mobilised in a meeting with Mr Morrison on September 28 to make it clear they could not accept a climate plan without the target.

Liberal MPs warned Treasurer Josh Frydenberg before the meet-

The Zoom uprising for net zero target

How 18 MPs took their fears of a voter backlash to the PM.
DAVID CROWE
OPINION PAGE 26



ing they would have to consider their positions if the government retreated on net zero in the face of protests from Nationals leader Barnaby Joyce and conservative commentators. "Nobody was talking about moving to the cross-bench but people were talking about reserving their positions, absolutely," said one of the 18 backbenchers on a Zoom call with Mr Morrison and Mr Frydenberg.

Another MP said several of them contemplated a show of public support for net zero on the floor of the House of Representatives if cabinet rejected the net zero 2050 target, with options including a vote on a motion on climate change.

"If we didn't get it, people might have considered their options," said a third MP. All spoke on condition of anonymity because they were revealing private talks with the Prime Minister.

Continued Page 8

Cop's stark tale of homophobia in NSW force

EXCLUSIVE

Greg Callaghan

Young constable Mark Higginbotham struggled to absorb what he was hearing from the sergeant yelling in his face at Darlinghurst Police Station.

"We don't charge poofster bashers," the angry, middle-aged cop screamed at Higginbotham, who was standing at the charge



Mark Higginbotham. Photo: Eddie Jim

desk completing the paperwork for arresting a man who'd brutally bashed a gay man near the station.

"The sergeant was in a rage because fingerprinting had been done and the charging process couldn't be stopped," Higginbotham said of the 1983 incident.

"He was furious that a man was being charged with a gay hate crime. His condemnation of me was sustained and public."

The then 19-year-old, who Higginbotham describes as "naive" and "green", didn't fully under-

stand what he was up against, even as he was being humiliated.

In his mind, he had simply responded to the bashing of a man, who happened to be gay, in the streets near the station. Bruised and bleeding, the victim had approached Higginbotham and his partner for help as they pulled up outside the station. The two young officers dutifully tracked down the
Continued Page 6

BET WITH MATES
NOW SHOWING THIS DERBY DAY
sportsbet

Members must have a sportsbet account. Excludes Sporting. Odds may vary. © 2021 sportsbet.com.au. Terms & Conditions apply. Gambling Help 1800 858 858 www.gamblinghelp.org.au

Cop's stark tale of force's homophobia

From Page 1

identified attacker, who violently resisted arrest, handcuffed him and had him brought back to the station to be formally charged.

The victim happened to be the editor of a local gay newspaper, who, oblivious to the hard-core homophobia of the sergeant, wrote a positive story about Higginbotham and Darlinghurst police, highly unusual at the time. But thanks to that story, Higginbotham became an object of scorn and bullying by senior officers at the station. "It seemed I had doubled down on my sins by inadvertently making the arrest public, in their minds bringing public shame on the station by helping the victim of a gay hate crime. I became persona non-grata," he said.

The intimidation was most visible at the start of shifts as officers waited to be given jobs. "Senior uniform staff ... would ask, 'Who wants to work with the faggot?'"

During his year at Darlinghurst, Higginbotham witnessed officers from his and other stations bashing gay men at a beat at Moore Park.

"I was naive enough to think we were there arresting people for a mugging but after this happened a few times and there were no arrests, I realised the exclusive target of these organised operations were gay men at a beat. I feel a deep sense of shame being part of this, even though I never participated in any of the attacks," he said.

Higginbotham - now a senior sergeant with the Victoria Police, pioneering improved practices for supporting sex crime victims - is the first officer to publicly acknowledge police from inner-city stations were bashing gay men in the 1980s. Witnesses from the gay community allege this happened as late as 1989.

In a statement, NSW Police said the LGBTIQ Liaison Officer program was established in 1990 to respond to historical incidents of violence directed at members of the LGBTIQ community.

PODCAST



MORE THAN 90%

Young teens flocking to join jabbed live mostly in Sydney

EXCLUSIVE

Lucy Carroll, Jordan Baker

Parents across the city have rushed to have their young teenagers vaccinated against COVID-19, with new data revealing more than 90 per cent of children in multiple areas including North Sydney, the inner west and Willoughby have received a first jab.

The new federal health data, obtained by the *Herald*, comes as NSW schools begin a mass rollout of rapid home tests, which will be used twice a week by students to cut risk of classroom disruption.

More than 40 schools across the state, many in regional areas, have shut due to COVID-19 since Sunday but most have been primary schools, where students cannot be vaccinated. Vaccinations for younger students may be available later this year.

Vaccination rates for 12 to 15-year-olds by region, show vast differences in take-up rates: areas in Byron Bay, Clarence Valley and Tweed lag the state average, with fewer than 60 per cent of young teenagers with a first dose, compared to Lane Cove, North Sydney and inner west, where first-jab rates have peaked above 93 per cent.

Children aged 12 to 15 were given the green light to join the rollout in late August, with young people able to book a Pfizer or Moderna jab in NSW from mid-September. Vaccination uptake for young teens across the state hit 78.5 per cent first dose and 54.8 per cent fully vaccinated yesterday.

Data recorded up to October 26 shows the highest double-dose rates for young teenagers across the city are in the local government areas of Sydney (86.45 per cent), the Inner West (82.43 per cent), Lane Cove (81.21 per cent), North Sydney (80.65 per cent) and Waverley (76.7 per cent).

But in the former hotspot of Canterbury-Bankstown, about 47 per cent are fully vaccinated, and in Bayside, the double-dose rate is at 52 per cent. Some regions slip



Teenagers such as Georgia Meir, 14, have fronted up in droves for their first shots. Photo: Alex Ellinghausen

behind the state average two-dose rates, such as Bellingen at 23.64 per cent, Byron Bay at 20.82 per cent and Clarence Valley at 25.69 per cent.

Associate Professor Holly Seale, a vaccine communications researcher at UNSW, said consider-

We need to know if masks are really necessary in school
EDITORIAL PAGE 24

ation should be given to piggybacking off existing school-based immunisation programs, such for human papillomavirus (HPV) and meningococcal, if students are struggling to get to clinics.

"School-based programs know how to reach school children and their parents. For younger people, there may be some people whose parents have declined the vaccine, but the children may be interested. This is where school COVID-19 vaccine clinics could be helpful"

Infectious diseases expert Pro-

fessor Robert Booy said while the state is "awash with Pfizer", some parts of regional NSW could have "vaccine services that may not be as organised, or people aren't getting reminded."

"In the short term, pop-up school-based clinics could be helpful to boost lower vaccination rates," he said.

Professor Booy said that in general COVID-19 was a very mild illness for young teens, and it was possible the immunisation program for this group could be limited to just two doses without the need for ongoing boosters.

In NSW, school-based vaccine programs are run in year 7 for diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines and for the meningococcal vaccine in year 10.

The 12 to 15-year-old vaccination figures are based on recent population estimates, and if some areas have seen major growth or movement of people, this would affect the accuracy of the reported vaccination rates.

NSW reported 293 new local cases of COVID-19 and two deaths yesterday as NSW's Deputy Chief Health Officer Dr Marianne Gale said health officials were seeing "particularly higher case numbers" in a number of pockets across the state, including the border city of Albury.

Thirty cases were recorded in Murrumbidgee LHD, covering Albury, and 18 cases from the Mid North Coast LHD, including the Kempsey area.

Chief Medical Officer Kerry Chant is expected to address parents in the border regions on Friday. It follows more than 30 schools in north-east Victoria and in the Albury-Wodonga basin closing in the past two weeks. Vaccinations are not mandatory for high school students, although many of the private schools that have asked students to volunteer their vaccination status report high uptake.

A total of 381 patients are in NSW hospitals with COVID-19 and of those people, 82 are in intensive care.

with Nigel Gladstone

SUPER RECOVERY UNPAID SUPER UNCLAIMED MONIES

No recovery No fee

We specialise in recovering unpaid superannuation - if you have worked as a sole trader in Australia since 1992 and earned \$450 per month and have not received super.

It makes no difference if you were a contractor, and not an employee, you are still entitled to super.

If you would like to discuss this with no obligation, please call Ian James on **0414 973 874** or email ian.james@kaizenenterprises.com.au

Albury schools to trial rapid antigen tests

Jordan Baker
Education editor

Students will be given rapid antigen tests to take twice a week at home to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in classrooms, and those who are close contacts of a case can use them to shorten their isolation under a plan to reduce disruption to schools.

The tests will be trialled in hard-hit Albury in southern NSW from next week, where almost every school has been forced to shut due to a COVID-19 case in the past two weeks. Some have been shut twice. Across NSW, more than 40 schools have shut since Sunday.

Close contact students who are vaccinated need to only isolate for a week, and less if they wore a mask, but those who are unvaccinated, which includes everyone under 11, must isolate at home with a parent for 14 days.

Education Minister Sarah Mitchell acknowledged the disruption to schooling and said rapid antigen tests, which can be self-administered from November 1 and give a result within 15 minutes, are key to keeping schools open and safe.

"We will be trialling the tests in two ways: a broad surveillance approach along with close contact testing to reduce initial positive cases on school sites and

reduce the amount of time close contact students need to spend away from school," she said.

Self-testing is now the main line of defence against COVID-19 in England, which has stopped sending entire cohorts home to isolate due to the extreme disruption. During one week in June, a quarter of a million students were isolating at home.

NSW schools will give students the tests to use at home as part of community surveillance. Those with a positive result would then need a standard PCR test, and the rest can go about their normal business.

Unvaccinated students would also be able to isolate for seven

rather than 14 days if they returned a negative rapid antigen test every day. While the Albury trial begins next week, the government has not confirmed when the statewide rollout will begin. The pilot will iron out issues such as how to report results to schools, how families manage the tests and how many are willing to do it.

The principal of The Scots School in Albury, Mark Garaets, said the atmosphere was tense. "There's a great sense of nervousness. Our year 12 parents see their kids lining up for the exams of their lifetime and being so unsure if they'll be able to do all of them."