Twitter Thread by The Megaphone Report



The Megaphone Report
@prestonaphone

The Megaphone Report for Wednesday, January 13.

Today’s report is an Oxford University / AstraZeneca vaccine special. First - Australians deserve the most expensive of vaccines.



The purchase of the vaccine is compared to the NBN rollout and corruption is suggested.



Corruption was a running theme connected to the AstraZeneca vaccine purchase - especially in relation to D. Sharma.



Brand shopping was another theme, with demands that Australians must have the best.



Queen Victoria
@Vic_Rollison

I'll have the Pfizer vaccine thanks.

> **BBD (Just here to share CO...** · 17h
>
> #BREAKING AstraZeneca vaccine 'not good enough to stop the coronavirus'
>
> The Federal Government has ordered 53.8 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, which has an efficacy rate of only 62%.
>
> In comparison, the Pfizer vaccine has a rate of 95% and Moderna's 94%.
> #covid19aus
>
> Show this thread



natalie.brown

news.com.au

Doctors have called for a re-evaluation of Australia's COVID-19 vaccine strategy, saying that herd immunity cannot be achieved with the lower-efficacy Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.

The vaccine, along with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, will be administered to millions of Australians in the coming months, in line with plans by the Morrison Government.

"I feel like Australia is short-changing itself by betting so heavily on the AstraZeneca vaccine," infectious diseases doctor and Monash University professor, Michelle Ananda-Rajah told *The Australian*.

"I haven't had any clarity from the government as to what the end game here is. In my mind, the end game for Australia is we should be aiming to eliminate COVID-19.

Having shares in CSL (formerly the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, now a publicly listed company) is mentioned as being relevant.

Daniel Bleakley
@DanielBleakley

Dave Sharma has shares in CSL which is the company that produces the AZ vaccine in Australia.

aph.gov.au/-/media/03_Sen...



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTE

Statement of Registrable Intere
46th Parliament

Returning Members are to declare interests as at the d
the House in the 45th Parliament (11 April 2019) and al
date of dissolution.

Newly elected Members are to declare interests as at
(18 May 2019) and alterations since the date o

FAMILY NAME (please print)	Sharma
GIVEN NAMES	Dave
ELECTORAL DIVISION	Wentworth

1. List shareholdings in public and private companies (including holding
the name of the company or companies

	Name of company (including holding and subsidiary companies
	Ardent Leisure Group (ALG)
	Appen Limited (APX)
	Bisalloy Steel (BIS)
	Bluescope Steel (BSL)
	Catapult Group (CAT)
	Coles Group (COL)
	Kelly Partners Group (KPG)
	Macquarie Group (MQG)
	Macquarie Group Capital Notes (MQGPC)
	Myer Holdings (MYR)
	National Australia Bank (NAB)
	Platinum Asset (PTM)
Self	Westpac Banking (WBC)
	Wesfarmers Limited (WES)
	Wisetech Global (WTC)
	Xero (XRO)
	Zip Co (Z1P)
	Afterpay Touch (APT)
	Argo Investments (ARG)
	Blue Sky (BLA)
	Cochlear (COH)
	CSL (CSL)
	Parazero (PRZ)

8:23 am · 13/1/21 · Twitter Web App

151 Retweets **31** Quote Tweets **313** Likes

Mention of a chorus supporting the megaphone view.



A suggestion not supported by a press release by peak bodies connected to the vaccine rollout.

Peak bodies support Australia's COVID-19 vaccine strategy

13 Jan 2021: The Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases (ASID), the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC), and the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) have come out in support of the Commonwealth Government's COVID-19 vaccine strategy, stressing that concerns about the ability of any vaccines to create herd immunity were not justified at this stage of the process.

Immediate Past President of ASID Professor Josh Davis, ACIPC President Associate Professor Philip Russo, and PHAA President, Professor Tarun Weeramanthri said we need to wait until the Therapeutic Goods Administration has completed its review process of the available vaccines.

"There are no COVID-19 vaccines that have been registered by the TGA in Australia currently - because the available data are being carefully evaluated right now. However, the Pfizer and Astra Zeneca vaccines are likely to be the first candidates approved for use in Australia."

ASID Board Member and head of its Vaccination Special Interest Group Professor Katie Flanagan said that the pre-purchase agreements were made before any phase 3 efficacy data were released in order to ensure that Australia has access to a diverse portfolio of vaccines. This includes signing up to the COVAX facility which guarantees access to further candidates.

The Pfizer vaccine has since shown >90% efficacy in phase 3 trials while the Astra Zeneca vaccine is ~62% effective in the recommended 2-dose schedule. It must be remembered that these findings are preliminary and far exceed the bar for licensure of 50% set by the international regulators including both the FDA and the TGA. Furthermore, no vaccines to date have been shown to prevent transmission of virus and we don't yet know how long immunity will last with the different vaccine candidates.

Supplies of COVID-19 vaccines are limited due to the worldwide demand and the logistics of vaccinating the entire adult population is huge, therefore priority populations will be vaccinated first. It is important to get as many people vaccinated as possible in the shortest possible time and it would not be appropriate to withhold the Astra Zeneca vaccine while waiting for supplies of a more efficacious one.

The Government has access to expert advice and the final strategy is likely to involve the use of multiple vaccines, which will be the approach most countries will take. Some people will have contraindications to one vaccine, e.g., anaphylaxis, and will need an alternative.

The organisations are also concerned that the current debate over the efficacy of the AstraZeneca vaccine could undermine public trust in the country's vaccination plan.

Whilst robust discussion of the national vaccine policy is important, "the public should have confidence in the approach the Government is taking to providing COVID-19 vaccines in Australia."

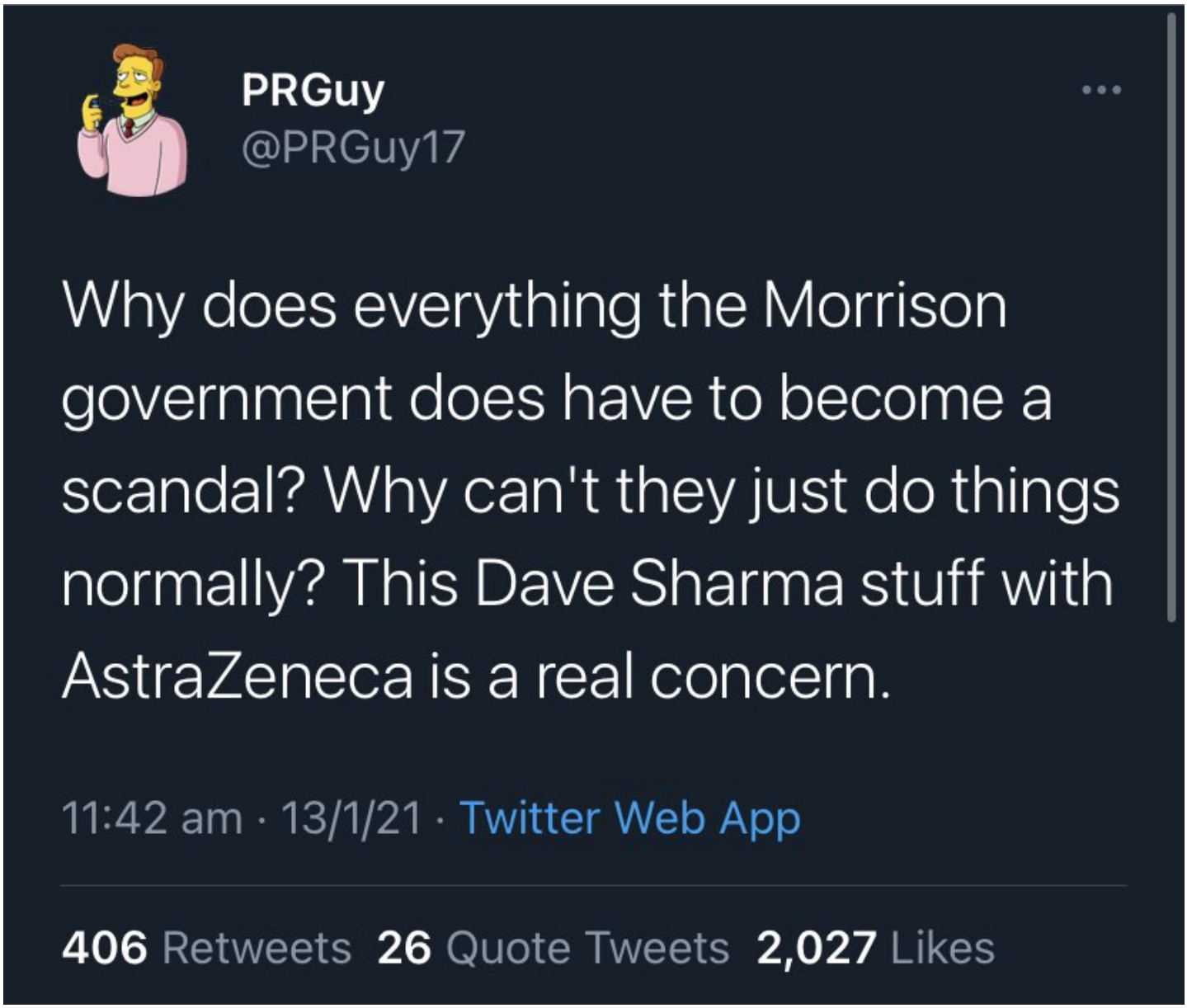
--Ends--

Media contact: Alison Sweeney, Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases Media and Communications Officer at communications@asid.net.au / 0425 221 155.

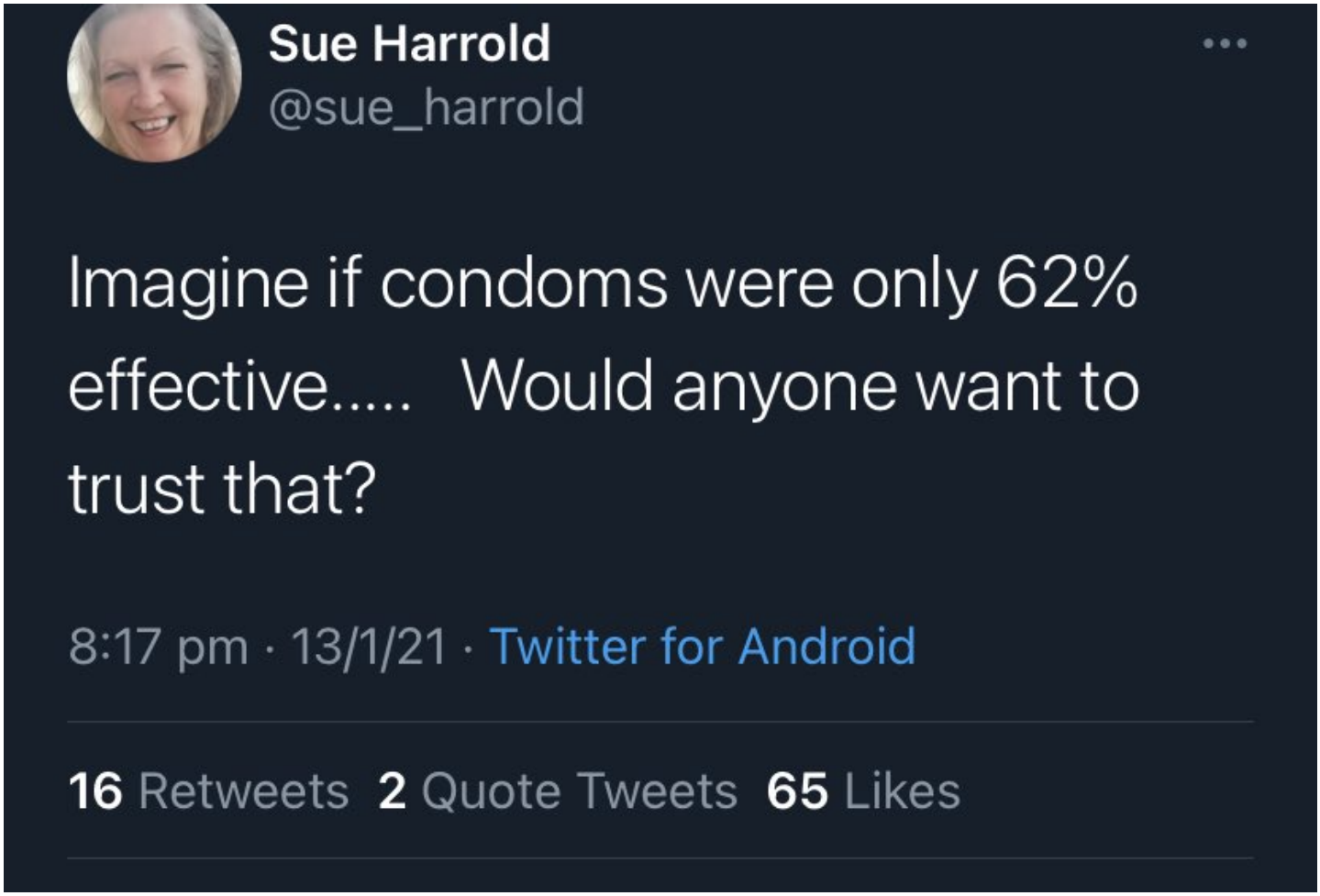
That has been your megaphone report for Wednesday, January 13.

Addendum. More tweets have come to light, showing why there are multiple comments being made about the AstraZeneca vaccine.

1. PR Guy has driven the discussion.



2. The comparisons continue to be made, at various levels.



3. S Morrison has been asked to communicate more clearly. No mention of P. Kelly, the Federal CHO.



4. Difficult to combat this suggestion with so many liking this style of tweet.



5. It has become an issue of a performative battle in terms of class.



Jenny Frecklington-Jones;... ···
@JonesHowdareyou

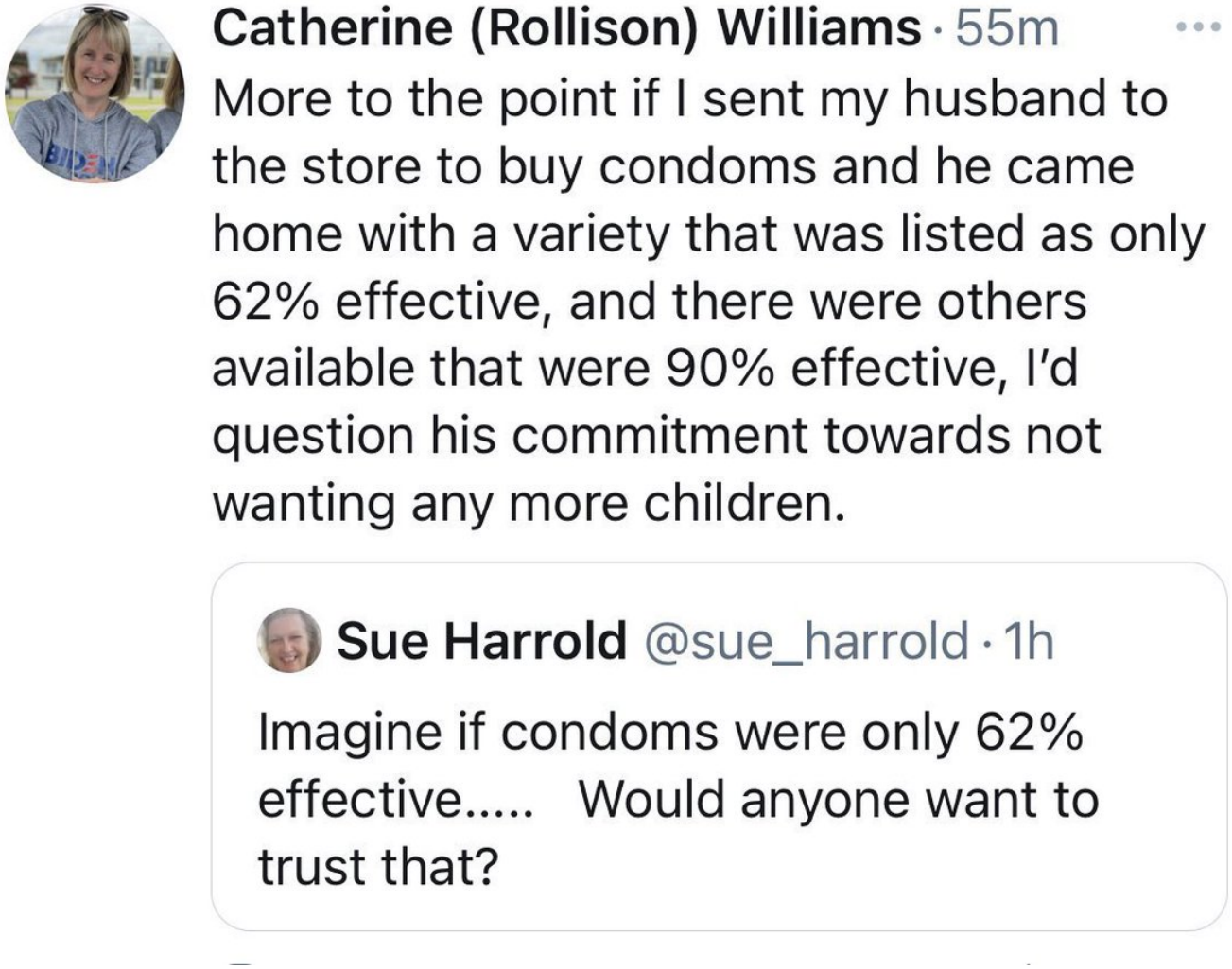
So. It's not about the "logistics" of Pfizer and how it's "almost impossible" to manage at -70 degrees C. It's all about how much we ordered. 95% protection for the wealthy elites; 62% scanty protection for the plebs. I see. #auspol #COVID19

> **THE Russell - Wash your hands with...** · 2h
>
> Prof. Kelly says: "Australia has only been able to secure 10 million doses of Pfizer vaccine and it's unlikely we can get any more..." and "the AstraZenica vaccine is appropriate enough for Australians."
> How does that go again? "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach."
> #auspol
>
> 
>

6. Some are connecting the debate about the Astra Seneca vaccine to conspiracies about the agenda of particular individuals, rather than about statements by peak medical bodies and the Federal CHO.



7. This comment, which challenges any classification attempt.



It has become clear that the megaphones, while professing to be supporters of the work of B. Sutton, Victorian CHO, have ignored the thread that he recommends here. https://t.co/tydqT0CbUL

> Important, honest thread from Allen Cheng on vaccines in Australia. https://t.co/MoSqe7kBHh
>
> — Chief Health Officer, Victoria (@VictorianCHO) January 13, 2021