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# THE Australian Jewish News

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## AJN BACKS NSW JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

# IT'S OUR BEST SHOT

GARETH NARUNSKY

PEOPLE of all ages with COVID are being admitted to hospital "right now", Jewish GP and media personality Gini Mansberg told *The AJN* this week.

"They will not have any visits from anybody that they know. They'll see healthcare workers, cleaners... but those people almost see them as being radioactive because they're giving off huge amounts of virus," she said.

"No one is going to sit there and hold their hand or talk to them about their fears, their dreams, their regrets, their hopes. When you're feeling sick, you can't breathe very well and you're feeling vulnerable, that just compounds an already ghastly situation.

"What terrifies me more than anything is the thought of someone that I love and care about being in that situation."

With daily cases numbers reaching 233 yesterday (Wednesday), *The AJN* has partnered with the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies (JBOD) on a new campaign to encourage as many people as possible in the Jewish community to get vaccinated during August.

Communal identities will join doctors, immunologists and Jewish health workers in giving testimonials about the importance of getting jabbed, while dispelling the myths around vaccination and AstraZeneca in particular.

Through the Keep NSW Safe coalition, JBOD will also get the message out to more than 40 other religious and cultural groups.

Mansberg, who is one of the voices in the campaign, pointed out that the risk of dying of a blood clot from AstraZeneca in Australia "is about one in a million".



Rabbi Benjamin Elton says the route out of lockdown and to lasting safety is through vaccination.

"Right now, in Sydney the odds of getting COVID are much higher. And while lots of people say, 'Well, I never go anywhere', they never go anywhere except for the post office, except for the supermarket, except to drop mum off a challah on Friday.

"You do go places. Everywhere that you go that is not in your lounge room is a risk to you."

Noting AstraZeneca is 92 per cent effective against hospitalisation, she said, "The best vaccine for you is the one you can get. Anybody in NSW can get the AstraZeneca vaccine right now."

*AJN* publisher Robert Magid, who had AstraZeneca, said, "It is our duty to protect ourselves and those close to us by being inoculated promptly. The goal is to reach herd immunity so we can return to normality, meet in public, return to work, travel interstate and overseas, engage in social activity as well as

sport and entertainment. You have an important role to play."

JBOD president Lesli Berger said the sooner people are vaccinated, "the sooner we can return to normality. What we need to do as a community is encourage those who are vaccine hesitant and combat the misinformation and disinformation with the real facts."

JBOD CEO Darren Bark said it is important to be able to access the right information. "This is why JBOD has partnered with *The AJN* to ensure the best possible information is available to the widest reaches of our community."

Federal MP Julian Lester, who features in the campaign, said vaccination "is our duty as Australians".

Emanuel Synagogue's Rabbi Jacqueline Nisio said the science shows "vaccines save lives".

"It is our way to do what we can to enable our communities

to return to being in person, to gather again in our synagogues and pray, socialise, learn and connect," she added.

The Great Synagogue's Rabbi Benjamin Elton said, "It's now clear that the route out of lockdown and to lasting safety from COVID is through the vaccines."

Jewish author Joanne Fedler, another campaign voice, said, "Last year, a friend that I was a school with died of COVID, he was my age with a young son. I watched his funeral on Zoom.

"In the last four months, two other guys that I knew from school died. I guess if you don't know somebody who's died, you can afford to have some sort of complacency. I will do whatever I can to try and encourage people to go and get vaccinated."

For more information, visit [keepnswsafe.com](http://keepnswsafe.com)

## \$39B TAKEOVER

# Molnar's pay day

EVAN ZLATKIS

IN what will be the largest corporate transaction in Australian history, Moriah College alumnus Nick Molnar (pictured) and his business partner Anthony Eisen are set to sell their buy-now-pay-later company Afterpay for \$39 billion.



US fintech giant Square, whose CEO is Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey, announced on Monday it had agreed to purchase the company in the first quarter of 2022.

"I couldn't be more excited to share [this] incredible milestone for Afterpay," Molnar enthused. "This partnership brings together two of the fastest growing fintech companies in the world."

He added, "This is a really significant moment for the Australian tech sector, which we believe will further connect our emerging tech sector to Silicon Valley and it's amazing to see Australian innovation and entrepreneurship recognised on this global level."

Molnar and Eisen, who were former neighbours in Sydney's east, launched Afterpay, which is the leader in the buy now, pay later sector, in 2014. They will stay on at the company.

While a student at Moriah, Molnar worked in the family jewellery business.

"I was always entrepreneurial, trying to come up with a way to trade my next product and make a dollar," he said. "I was importing and selling headphones from Japan when I was at school. There was always something."

Molnar's former information Processes and Technology (IPT) teacher at Moriah, Stephanie Schwarz, told *The AJN*, "It is wonderful to see how Nick was able to use what was discussed in the classroom and add his own sophisticated business flair and talent to it, to achieve this remarkable outcome."



Jewish

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