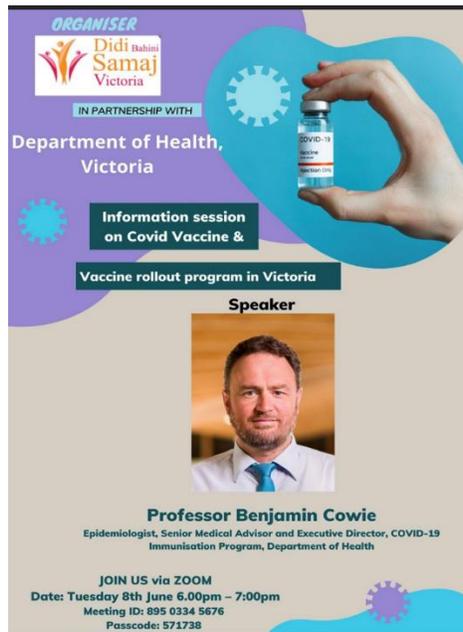




# DIDIBAHINI SAMAJ VICTORIA



**ORGANISER**  
Didi Bahini  
Samaj  
Victoria

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
Department of Health,  
Victoria

Information session  
on Covid Vaccine &  
Vaccine rollout program in Victoria

**Speaker**



**Professor Benjamin Cowie**  
Epidemiologist, Senior Medical Advisor and Executive Director, COVID-19  
Immunisation Program, Department of Health

JOIN US via ZOOM  
Date: Tuesday 8th June 6.00pm – 7:00pm  
Meeting ID: 895 0334 5676  
Passcode: 571738

## INFORMATION SESSION ON COVID VACCINE AND VACCINE ROLLOUT PROGRAM IN VICTORIA

Report prepared by:

Anita Bhandari

## **INTRODUCTION**

This document is a report of an information session coordinated by Didibahini Samaj Victoria (DBSV) in partnership with the Department of Health for the Nepalese community members addressing various aspects of the COVID-19 vaccination, vaccine distribution, safety, efficacy, and eligibility. The major objective of the session was to provide information about COVID-19 vaccines, raise awareness about the benefits of vaccination, and address common concerns and questions. For the session, the flyer was prepared and communicated among the community members via various platforms of social media, Facebook, Viber, messenger. The session was facilitated and held online via Zoom. Zoom meeting details were included in the flyer.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE SESSION**

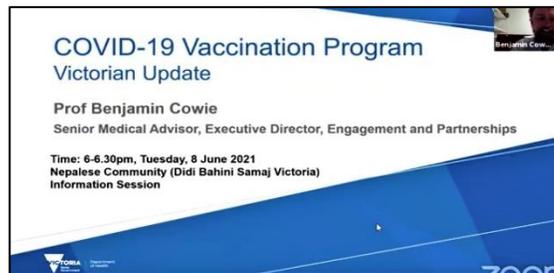
The information session was intended to advise and update Nepalese community members about the latest updates on the COVID-19 vaccination and vaccine-related issues. Also, the session aimed to inform the Australian Government's commitment and initiatives to provide safe and effective access to COVID-19 vaccines.

## **DETAILS OF THE EVENT**

The COVID-19 vaccine information session took place on 8th June 2021 via Zoom. Around 88 participants attended the session via the digital platform, Zoom. A DBSV information session was also joined by a panel of community leaders, senior community members, community partner including members from the Nepalese and Bhutanese organisation. At the event, community members were provided with an opportunity to ask questions related to Covid vaccination, its efficacy and common misinformation. The opening remarks of the session were delivered by Parsuram Sharma Luitl, Senior Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, COVID-19 Vaccination Program, Victorian

Department of Health followed by the acknowledgement of country and introduction of the guest speaker by Dr Jamuna Parajuli (President of DBSV).

The session was then successfully led by Professor Benjamin Cowie, Epidemiologist, Senior Medical Advisor and Executive Director, Covid-19 Immunisation Program, Department of Health. Professor Benjamin facilitated PowerPoint Presentation on COVID-19 Vaccine, its efficacy, importance, eligibility, and other information related to the vaccine rollout program in Victoria followed by Q&A from community members.



Professor Benjamin was joined by Mohammad (Manager, COVID-19 Vaccination Program, Victorian Department of Health) who added additional discussion and answered questions asked by the participants.

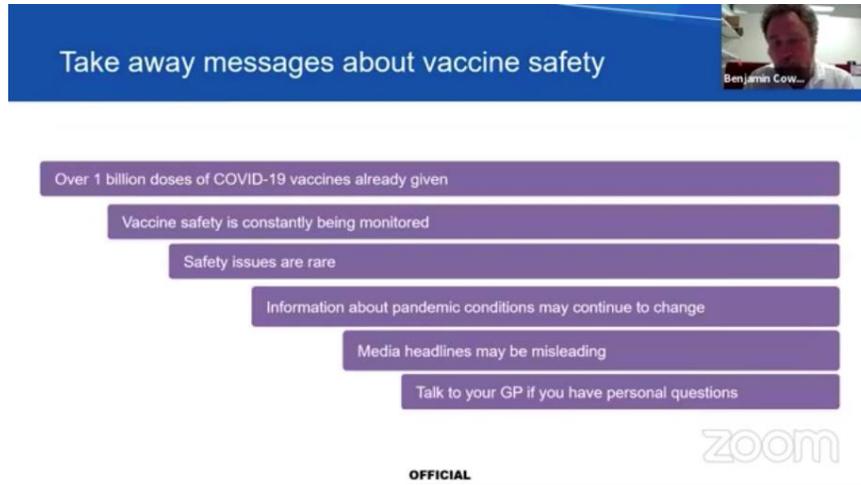
During the session, the panel of health experts discussed and answered various topics and queries related to the Covid vaccine including overall vaccination trends in Victoria and the situation regarding the Covid vaccine, its importance and potential side effects and challenges post-vaccination including measures to address the mild adverse events (such as fever, nausea, headache, pain, aches, anaphylaxis).



	Pfizer	Astra Zeneca
Pain	83%	61%
Tiredness	47%	76%
Headache	52% (dose 2)	65%
Aches	37%	53%
Fever	4-8% (very low)	4-8% (very low)
Anaphylaxis	4.7 per million doses	1 per million doses

Presented by Professor Benjamin Cowie

The session also delivered information on vaccine’s complications among the elderly, children, pregnant women, and the vaccination of patients with chronic heart disease, respiratory system conditions and people with weakened immune conditions. Besides, the health experts also noted the need for and importance of vaccinations and protective measures after vaccination urging everyone to get vaccinations as soon as possible.



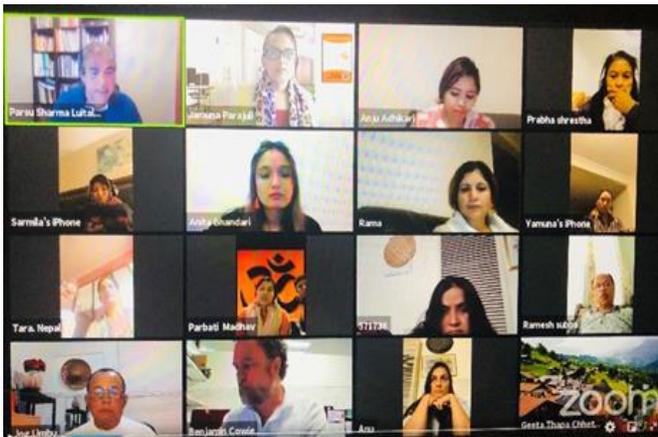
**Take away messages about vaccine safety**

- Over 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines already given
- Vaccine safety is constantly being monitored
- Safety issues are rare
- Information about pandemic conditions may continue to change
- Media headlines may be misleading
- Talk to your GP if you have personal questions

OFFICIAL

Presented by Professor Benjamin Cowie

The closing remark of the session and vote of thanks was delivered by Anjana Nepal, Executive Member of DBSV. The session was broadcasted live via DBSV’s Facebook page. Around 90 people viewed the live hearing during and after the completion of the session via Facebook.



## FEEDBACK AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

Around 200 community members including the viewers of the Facebook live session attended the meeting. Very positive feedback and comments were received during and after the session. Participants indicated that the session was a very positive experience and the learnings from the session were very instructive and valuable. Overall, the session was evaluated and seen as the most effective and informative session.

Few highlights of the participant's feedback are as below:

“Thank you DBSV for the thoughtful information session regarding Covid vaccines for our community.”

“Thank you DBSV team for organising such a great informative and wonderful session”.

## CONCLUSION

Overall, the information session provided crucial details about the Covid vaccine and roll-out program in Victoria. The session ended with a positive remark, feedback, and encouragement to continue to get vaccinations and to stay safe from COVID-19.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- In the accomplishment of this event successfully, Didi Bahini Samaj, take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the Department of Health (Victoria) for providing us necessary information and support for the event.
- Our thanks and appreciations also go to all the community leaders, members from the Nepalese and Bhutanese community, senior community members including all the participants for their valuable involvement and feedbacks.