

MEDIA RELEASE



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RURAL PUB BECOMES VACCINATION HUB

In a community as isolated and spread out as Armatree, people often say the pub is a lifesaver.

But in the last few days The Armatree Hotel, 35km north of Gilgandra, has stepped up to safeguard much more than just the social lives of its little community.

The hotel, owned by Ash Walker, teamed up with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) to become the state's first vaccination hub in a pub.

Mr Walker said one doctor and two nurses from the RFDS delivered first Pfizer jabs to more than 200 locals from across the district on Saturday, August 21.

"The RFDS are based in Walgett at the moment, they had a spare day and asked if they could use the pub because it is central and well known," he said.

"We organised it all in 24 hours and people travelled huge distances to come in here and get vaccinated, and get some take away food and drinks as well."

"It was great for the community, who are pretty isolated out here and can't wait to be back sitting together in the public bar."

Mr Walker said the RFDS will return in three weeks to deliver second doses.

AHA NSW CEO John Whelan said country pubs are the heart of their communities and always step up in tough times.

"The Armatree Hotel is a real community hub and this is a great initiative," said Mr Whelan.

"Vaccines are now available and we encourage all staff and patrons to be vaccinated as soon as possible."

*** Pics available**

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