
**Advisory Committee on the Health Emergency Response
to COVID-19 for People with Disability
Extraordinary Meeting 21 July 2023 – Summary of Outcomes**

An extraordinary meeting was held for the Committee to:

- consider COVID-19 mortality data for people with disability developed by the Department of Health and Aged Care (department), and
- advise the department on how this data should be used.

The department's Health Economics and Research Division presented data.

The Committee discussed:

- how the data could be misinterpreted if published without relevant contextual information
- messages that should be initially communicated to people with disability to encourage preventative health measures that are supported by the data (e.g. vaccination against COVID-19)
- fatigue towards COVID-19 messaging, and
- how suggested messaging may impact the behaviour of the broader community.

NEXT STEPS

The department will work with interested Committee members to finalise:

- initial messages to be communicated publicly with headline data on COVID-19 mortality for people with disability, and
- an article for publication in a refereed journal containing more detailed data and contextual information.

The department will seek the Ministers' approval before publication.

The Committee is scheduled to meet on 15 August 2023. The agenda for this meeting will include items on:

- eligibility criteria for COVID-19 antiviral treatments
- the establishment of the Australian Centre for Disease Control, and
- the future of the Committee and its potential incorporation into the Disability and Health Sector Consultation Committee.