



Australian Government



Disability Provider Alert

19 May 2021

The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine continues to ramp up. Aspen Medical is now vaccinating people with disability eligible under phase 1a and living in residential accommodation housing with two or more people. This is taking place in the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory.

Aspen will begin rolling out the vaccine in Victoria this week. South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania will start on the week of 24 May. Western Australia will begin the week of 31 May.

The Australian Government is in negotiation with another vaccine provider to support further expansion of the vaccine rollout. The focus will be on increasing capacity in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, with commencement from mid-June.

Supporting the vaccine rollout for people with disability 50 years and over

The Australian Government is enhancing access to the AstraZeneca vaccine for disability accommodation residents of two or more people where all residents are 50 and over.

The Department of Health is working with Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to deliver AstraZeneca to people with disability eligible for phase 1a. This is happening through primary care services including General Practices, Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

Local PHNs will contact relevant disability providers in the coming weeks. The PHNs will confirm interest of having GP services deliver the AstraZeneca vaccine to their facilities where residents are 50 and over.

Participating disability providers will need to ensure that residents have provided consent to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine. An updated form is available [online](#).

Note: This process will not apply to ACT and NT disability providers, as ASPEN will be finalising the vaccine rollout to this cohort. ACT Health Directorate has confirmed that all staff, volunteers and residents in disability care can get vaccinated at the Garran clinic, regardless of age. Please make an appointment via the phone booking service (02) 5124 7700.

Disability Provider updates on vaccination status of its residents

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) will be calling all disability providers in the coming days to undertake a survey on the status of vaccination relating to their residents and staff. This will include asking if people have been vaccinated and where they got their vaccination. This process will replace the template mentioned in the 13 May Provider Alert.

Infographics for vaccination access pathways

Further information is attached to this alert to outline the different ways that people with disability and their carers can access the vaccine.

Information on what happens after vaccination

Information on what happens after a person is vaccinated is available on the [Department of Health's website](#). This includes content on common reactions, monitoring and reporting any side effects, and the importance of maintaining COVIDSafe measures.

The Australian Government has also partnered with the Australian College of Nursing to provide free and accredited training for the COVID-19 vaccination workforce. All authorised COVID-19 vaccination providers must complete this training.

Components of this training are also available for non-clinical and administrative staff. While not mandatory, disability providers interested in learning more about the training available can find information [here](#).

Webpage updates for people with disability

The department's webpage [Information for people with disability about COVID-19 vaccines](#) has been updated. This includes additional resources on the vaccination pathways for people with disability and disability workers.

All COVID-19 vaccination – Easy Read resources are currently being updated, and can be found [here](#).

For more information call the National Coronavirus and COVID-19 Vaccination Helpline on 1800 020 080.