



Health updates to keep your mob safe.

Information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities on COVID-19 vaccines, and other health updates.

Welcome to the latest update for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households, communities and organisations. In this edition you can read about why children aren't being offered the COVID-19 vaccines, how international business magazine, Forbes, has called Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic 'remarkable', and more!

Latest news

- [A 'remarkable' model for the world](#)
- [Why aren't children being offered the COVID-19 vaccines?](#)
- [Is it true: Were COVID-19 vaccines rushed through approvals?](#)
- **New COVID-19 vaccine resources available**
- **Side-effects reports**



A 'remarkable' model for the world

Since COVID-19 began, people from indigenous communities around the world have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. However, in Australia, only 153 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people have been infected by COVID-19, and thankfully none have died.

International business magazine, Forbes, has called this result 'remarkable'. [Read more on our website.](#)



Why aren't children being offered the vaccines?

Currently, there are no COVID-19 vaccines approved for children under the age of 16 in Australia. This is because early clinical trials of new vaccines do not usually include children in them. However, new and expanded research is taking place around the world to investigate whether the vaccines are safe for children.

[Share this video of Dr Lucas de Toca](#), who explains how the Therapeutic Goods Administration is monitoring the results of these new trials, who may update their recommendations in the future.





Were COVID-19 vaccines rushed through approvals?

Australia has made a full assessment of the COVID-19 vaccines.

All vaccines need to pass an assessment for quality, safety and efficacy. This is the same process for all vaccines. No part of the process has been rushed.

[Read the full answer on the website.](#)





New COVID-19 vaccine resources available

Download and share the new COVID-19 vaccine resources available on the website. This includes [videos featuring James Ward](#), a [fact sheet on the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines](#), and [updated handouts](#) for ACCHO vaccine providers to distribute after vaccinations.

We also have two new videos addressing important questions about COVID-19 vaccines: [Why should I get vaccinated if I can still get COVID-19?](#) and [Why do I have to give consent before having my COVID-19 vaccine?](#)



Side-effects reports

Did you know that most people did not report any adverse reaction after their COVID-19 vaccination? According to the survey amongst almost 6,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 62.6% reported no adverse reaction after their first dose of Pfizer, and about 43% after their first dose of AstraZeneca.

The most reported reaction after the Pfizer vaccine is soreness around where they had their injection. For AstraZeneca, the most reported reaction was feeling tired after getting their vaccine.

Read more about it on the [AusVaxSafety website](#).



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