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## Advisory Committee on the Health Emergency Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) for People with Disability - 12 May 2021

### Key Outcomes

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The Department of Health (the department) updated members of the Advisory Committee on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout for people with disability. This included updates on:

- ramping up in-reach vaccination in disability accommodation services
- developing clearer and targeted messaging about the COVID-19 vaccine and the vaccine rollout, specifically:
  - improving information about state and territory vaccination clinics on the COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker
  - developing products specifically for disability support workers, and
  - using focus groups of disability support workers to market test communication products.

The department provided a summary of a targeted discussion on COVID-19 vaccine communications for disability support workers, held on 6 May 2021. A communique for this meeting is available [on the department's website](#).

The department also provided an update on progress under the COVID-19 Management and Operational Plan for People with Disability (the Plan), including:

- proposed improvements to national COVID-19 surveillance to better capture cases in disability accommodation services
- progress on data linkage projects, and
- proposed priorities for the Advisory Committee under the Plan.

The Advisory Committee raised several issues for consideration, including:

- the importance of a single source of truth on the COVID-19 vaccine and the vaccine rollout
- concerns about how vaccine eligibility and prioritisation is decided and the fairness of that prioritisation
- in-reach COVID-19 vaccination options for people with disability residing in private homes, who find it difficult to attend vaccination sites
- vaccine hesitancy among disability support workers and people with disability and how this should be addressed
- how to encourage disability support workers to refer clients to their GP to address their concerns about the vaccine, and
- ways to reach disability support workers who are independent operators.

### NEXT STEPS

The department will continue to improve COVID-19 vaccine communications for people with disability and disability support workers on:

- how to access the vaccine
- what to expect when receiving the vaccine
- what in-reach vaccination will be like for people with disability living in disability accommodation services settings, and
- the status of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout for people with disability and the disability sector.

The department will also:

- publish the number of GP-led Respiratory Clinics offering COVID-19 vaccination
- consider hosting webinars for disability support workers, and
- meet with Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Dr Ben Gauntlett, to discuss avenues for cooperation on COVID-19 vaccine communications, between the department and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Professor Anne Kavanagh will provide demographic analysis of results from the Centre of Research Excellence in Disability and Health's recent survey on [disability support workers' perceptions towards the COVID-19 vaccine](#).