
Advisory Committee on the Health Emergency Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) for People with Disability - 28 May 2021

Key Outcomes

The Department of Health (the Department) updated members of the Advisory Committee on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout for people with disability and the disability sector.

The Department provided an update on the number of people with disability who have received their first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

The Department gave an overview of the four ways that people with disability, their support workers and carers in Phase 1a and 1b, can access the COVID-19 vaccination program. These are:

- **In-reach:** The Department has engaged Aspen Medical and Healthcare Australia to give in-reach vaccinations to people in group residential disability support settings. This will be by:
 - coming into the residences
 - arranging vaccination hubs at a location of their choice, for example day centres.
- **State and territory vaccination clinics:** People with disability, their support workers and carers (Phase 1a and 1b) can attend these clinics and receive the vaccine that is recommended based on their age - either Pfizer or AstraZeneca.
- **Primary care:** GPs and Commonwealth Vaccination Centres (earlier known as GP-led respiratory clinics) can give the AstraZeneca vaccine to people over the age of 50, including those in Phase 1a or 1b.
- **GP in-reach:** The Department is working with Primary Health Networks and GPs to enable GP in-reach to residential disability support settings. This will only be available for people eligible to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine. As the supply of the Pfizer vaccine grows, the Department will consider options for expanding this channel to also include the Pfizer vaccine.

The Advisory Committee raised several issues for consideration, including:

- strengthening vaccination data. Members suggested that a breakdown by state and territory and denominators would be useful
- the need for in-reach COVID-19 vaccination options for people with disability who live independently, with disability support workers coming to their homes and who find it difficult to attend vaccination sites. Currently there is no clear vaccination channel for people in this situation who are under the age of 50.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will:

- continue to collect and strengthen data on the number of people with disability who have been vaccinated, and consider options for publishing this data
- consider in-reach vaccination options for people with disability who live independently and find it difficult to attend vaccination sites. This will include:
 - seeking advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) on the risks and options for these individuals; and
 - discussing with state and territory governments options for pro-actively reaching this population to enable vaccination.