
Advisory Committee on the Health Emergency Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) for People with Disability – 6 July 2021

Key Outcomes

The Australian Department of Health (the Department) gave an update on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout for people with disability and the disability sector. This included updates on:

- vaccination rates among NDIS participants and NDIS participants living in disability accommodation and residential aged care settings
- strategies to improve data on vaccination rates among people with disability and the disability workforce
- the status of phase 1a in-reach vaccination
- recent communication activities and new products under development, and
- forthcoming focus groups to gain insights into vaccine sentiments among disability support workers and effective communications for this cohort

The Advisory Committee raised several issues for consideration, including:

- prioritising access for people with disability, carers, and support workers eligible in phases 1a and 1b of the vaccine rollout
- making appropriate resources on vaccination available at COVID-19 vaccination hubs
- offering people with disability and disability support workers choice of vaccination, regardless of their age
- clarifying information on ways to access to the vaccine in each state and territory
- the possibility of vaccinating close contacts of people with disability under 16 years of age, and
- regular reporting on the status of the rollout for people with disability and the disability workforce.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will:

- provide an update on the status of the COVID-19 vaccine implementation plan for the disability sector
- follow up with Victoria regarding vaccine access issues experienced by people with disability, their carers and support workers in phases 1a and 1b of the rollout
- look into developing jurisdiction-specific communications on vaccine access, and invite jurisdictions to highlight work under way at the next meeting
- consider expanding the use of social media to communicate with people with disability, their supporters, and the disability sector, and
- seek updates from states and territories about accessible communication materials in vaccination hubs.

An extraordinary meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held on 14 July 2021 to:

- discuss any decision from National Cabinet on vaccination requirements for disability support workers made by National Cabinet, and
- provide an opportunity for state and territory updates.