



Australian Government
Operation COVID Shield

**CEO of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
Coordinator General National COVID Vaccine Taskforce
Chief Medical Officer at Australian Government Department of Health**

Dear Australian COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partner

Advice regarding vaccination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure our most vulnerable populations are protected against the effects of COVID-19. The Primary Care Sector continues to play an enormous role in ensuring Indigenous Australians have access to COVID-19 vaccines and ongoing support and information about the virus.

You will now be aware of the advice provided by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) accepted by the Australian Government which recommended Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 12-15 years be eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination from 9 August 2021. This means **all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 12 year and over are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.**

We are writing to you today to encourage you to reach out to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in your community to inform them about the increased eligibility and how they can access COVID-19 vaccination services using the [vaccine eligibility checker](#).

As at 16 August 2021, over 172,883 people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine (approximately 29.7% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population 16 years and over). In comparison, approximately 48.8% of the non-Indigenous population 16 years and over have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

We all have an important role to play in providing culturally safe vaccination services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. For all Indigenous Australians to be vaccinated and bridge the current gap, we are asking the whole primary care sector to work together and ensure there is equitable COVID-19 vaccine uptake across Australia.

We appreciate your ongoing support and commitment to vaccinating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians as a priority cohort. We encourage you to continue to proactively engage with your Indigenous patients.

Thank you once again for your continued efforts to keep our most at-risk populations safe from COVID-19.

Yours sincerely



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