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**Advisory Committee on the Health Emergency Response to Coronavirus  
(COVID-19) for People with Disability  
Meeting 7 December 2021 – Summary of Outcomes**

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The Commonwealth provided an update on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout for people with disability and disability support workers. This included:

- current vaccination rates among:
  - NDIS participants
  - Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients, and
  - disability workers who have undergone NDIS worker screening.
- progress against recommendations outlined in the Inclusion Australia paper, *Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccination for People with an Intellectual Disability*. Included was a webinar for disability service providers on vaccine hesitancy and consent held on 7 December 2021, and
- how learnings from the 1a rollout in disability accommodation services are informing the booster rollout.

The Department of Health (the Department) presented data on COVID-19 vaccination rates for people with disability by:

- Local Government Area (LGA), focusing on areas where vaccination rates are lagging the general population
- disability type across jurisdictions, and
- culturally and linguistically diverse background.

Committee members raised concerns about lagging vaccination rates for DSP recipients. And, requested an agenda item on proposals to increase them at the Committee's next meeting.

The Department sought the Committee's input on a proposal that a nationally consistent approach be adopted for providing proof of exemption to mask wearing requirements.

The Advisory Committee also discussed:

- inclusion of people with disability in all forums concerning people with disability
- vaccination rates for disadvantaged and vulnerable cohorts, and
- the benefits of telehealth for people with disability and supporting this continued service.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The Department will:

- seek the Committee's input on information provided by states and territories on sedation appointments and individualised supports,
- include an agenda item on increasing vaccination rates among DSP recipients for the Committee's next meeting,
- publish the webinar for disability service providers on vaccine hesitancy and consent on the Department's website, alongside further resources for providers
- endeavour to include people with disability as presenters in all future events concerning them, and
- present on mask exemption requirements across Australia at a future meeting.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for 14 December 2021.