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**Advisory Committee on the Health Emergency Response to Coronavirus  
(COVID-19) for People with Disability  
Meeting 14 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:
  - National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants, and
  - Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients
- COVID-19 cases and related deaths among NDIS participants and workers
- forthcoming publication of data on NDIS participant vaccination rates
- the booster rollout program, including:
  - the availability of booster doses 5 months after the completion of primary vaccination course, and
  - prioritisation of in-reach vaccination in disability residential settings
- development of a framework for the use of Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT)
- the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission’s monitoring of provider compliance with public health orders requiring vaccination of disability support workers, and
- recent and upcoming communication activities.

States and territories provided jurisdictional updates. Some jurisdictions outlined their processes for reaching out to unvaccinated NDIS participants.

The Advisory Committee discussed:

- the importance of clear guidance and communications on RAT, including guidance on the legal implications for disability service providers and self-managed NDIS participants
- strategies to improve vaccination rates among DSP recipients
- the importance of clear communications and reminders about booster doses
- requirements for disability support workers to receive booster doses
- coordination of in-reach vaccination for disability residential settings, including:
  - notice provided to disability service providers,
  - coordination with state and territory out-reach to unvaccinated NDIS participants, and
  - use of learnings on vaccine refusal gained through out-reach activities
- appropriate approaches when engaging directly with people with disability about vaccination, and
- concerns about plateauing vaccination rates for NDIS participants aged 12 to 15 years.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The Department will:

- raise the issue of booster requirements for disability support workers with the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee
- report on whether the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation is considering lowering the age cohort for booster doses to include 12 to 17-year-olds, and
- consider strategies to boost vaccination rates among DSP recipients, in light of updated data on vaccination rates, at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for 11 January 2022.