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**Advisory Committee on the Health Emergency Response to Coronavirus  
(COVID-19) for People with Disability  
Meeting 30 November 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:

- Vaccination rates among:
  - National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants,
  - Disability Support Pension recipients, and
  - disability workers who have undergone NDIS worker screening
- COVID-19 cases and related deaths among NDIS participants and workers
- in-reach vaccination offers for disability accommodation services, and follow-up on declined offers
- NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission’s monitoring of disability service providers complying with mandatory vaccination orders for disability support workers
- the Commonwealth’s response to the recommendations from the Inclusion Australia paper, *Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccination for People with an Intellectual Disability*, and
- communications activities.

Members expressed disappointment about the lack of data on individuals’ reasons for declining vaccination offered through the 1a rollout.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) presented on COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 5 to 11-year-olds. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has provisionally approved the Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine as safe and effective for use among this group. The vaccine will be available to this group from January 2022.

The Advisory Committee discussed:

- people unable to be vaccinated for medical reasons experiencing difficulties accessing supports
- community concerns about the Omicron variant and its implications being clearly communicated when more information is available
- ATAGI’s:
  - advice on booster shots, and
  - consideration of Down syndrome in its advice on third primary doses.
- the degree to which ATAGI considers social vulnerabilities, and
- continuity of care in the context of disability workers’ rights to decline work.

States and territories provided an update on top line issues on the vaccine rollout for their jurisdiction.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- The Department will:
  - provide an update on the implementation of the booster shot program
  - report on in-reach vaccination offers and follow-up
  - circulate amongst the committee summaries of:
    - recent and upcoming communication activities, and
    - jurisdictional information on access to sedation for COVID-19 vaccination.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for 7 December 2021.