



Australian Government

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

Keep your disability workforce up to date by circulating this alert widely in your organisation

# Disability provider alert

14 April 2022

## COVID-19 vaccination consent, hesitancy and refusal: resources for disability providers to support clients with intellectual disability

Last year, the Australian Government Department of Health hosted a webinar for disability service providers (providers) on COVID-19 vaccination consent, hesitancy, and refusal. The webinar addressed several issues that providers may encounter in the context of supporting clients with intellectual disability, including:

- how providers can approach conversations around vaccine hesitancy and refusal with families of people with intellectual disability
- the role of providers in identifying authorised decision makers
- the role of the GP in making a decision about someone's capacity to provide consent, and
- the process for a disability service provider to ensure consent from a person with intellectual disability.

The webinar can be viewed on [the Department of Health's website](#).

Additional resources that may be of use for disability providers or support workers are listed below.

### State and territory websites and resources

States and territories have laws about what should happen when someone can't provide valid consent for themselves. Information about each state and territory's arrangements can be found through the links below.



State	Organisation/resource
Australian Capital Territory	Public Trustee and Guardian - <a href="http://www.publictrustee.act.gov.au/guardianship">www.publictrustee.act.gov.au/guardianship</a>
New South Wales	NSW Trustee and Guardian - <a href="http://www.tag.nsw.gov.au">www.tag.nsw.gov.au</a>
Northern Territory	Office of the Public Guardian - <a href="http://www.publicguardian.nt.gov.au">www.publicguardian.nt.gov.au</a>
Queensland	Office of the Public Guardian - <a href="http://www.publicguardian.qld.gov.au/">www.publicguardian.qld.gov.au/</a> - <a href="#">Office of the Public Guardian: Health decisions</a>
South Australia	Office of the Public Advocate - <a href="http://www.opa.sa.gov.au/what_we_do/guardianship">www.opa.sa.gov.au/what_we_do/guardianship</a> - <a href="#">Fact sheets</a>
Tasmania	Public Trustee and Guardian - <a href="https://www.publicguardian.tas.gov.au/">https://www.publicguardian.tas.gov.au/</a>
Victoria	Office of the Public Advocate- <a href="http://www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au/">www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au/</a>
Western Australia	Office of the Public Advocate - <a href="https://www.publicadvocate.wa.gov.au/">https://www.publicadvocate.wa.gov.au/</a> - <a href="#">Making treatment decisions</a>

## Supported decision making

Family members may be unaware that there are legislated requirements they must meet when acting as an authorised decision-maker. Disability support providers can assist in alerting family members to these obligations.

- The [National Standards on Public Guardianship](#) are outlined in this Easy Read sheet from the Australian Guardianship and Administration Council.
- [Supported Decision Making is a Human Right – NSW Department of Communities and Justice](#)
  - [This four-minute video shows how informal support can build everyone's decision-making capacity.](#)
- [Supported Decision Making training – National Disability Services](#)
  - Developed and distributed on behalf of the NSW Public Guardian, this e-learning module introduces the Supported Decision-Making Practice Framework.
- [La Trobe Support for Decision Making Practice Framework Learning Resource](#)
  - This training presents the first evidence-based framework to guide the process of supporting people with cognitive disabilities to make decisions.
- [Supported Decision Making](#)
  - A rights-based guide for individuals, families and the disability sector, developed by Western Australia's Individualised Services.
- [Supporting Decisions](#)
  - Aged and Carer Advocacy Service (ADACAS) has a series of resources which raise some good questions for those supporting someone to make decisions.

## Facilitating conversations about COVID-19 vaccination with people with intellectual disability and their families

- **COVID-19 Safer and Stronger: Disability Vaccine Champions**
  - Vaccine champions speak to the importance of COVID-19 vaccinations, and how they made the decision to get vaccinated.
- **COVID-19 Vaccine - National Disability Services**
  - Two short videos including a person with lived experience of intellectual disability identifying the vaccination process and the reasons for receiving the vaccine. This includes the decision-making process and going back for the second dose.
- **COVID-19 vaccination stories** - Council for Intellectual Disability
  - Five people with intellectual disability speak about their experience of getting vaccinated.
- **COVID-19 vaccination experiences** - YLab Global
  - Six young people speak about their experience of getting vaccinated. This includes young people with disability and people from multicultural communities.
- **COVID-19 vaccination social scripts - Amaze - Social Script**
- Social scripts are story-based and use images and descriptions to explain new experiences and social environments. While these scripts have been developed for autistic people, they can help a wider audience. **COVID-19 Vaccination – Easy Read Resources**
  - The Australian Government Department of Health has produced a range of Easy Read resources on COVID-19 vaccination.
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for people with disability - NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission**
  - COVID-19 vaccine information including frequently asked questions, accessible resources in Easy Read and Auslan, and fact sheets for NDIS participants.
- **NDIS Commission coronavirus (COVID-19) information - NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission**
  - Information for NDIS Participants, disability support workers and providers on COVID-19 vaccination and infection prevention and control.

## Further resources for providers and disability support workers

- **NDIS Commission letter to providers**
  - A letter outlining the rights of NDIS participants to receive COVID-19 vaccination, and how disability support workers can facilitate this.
- **Message from the Acting Commissioner – Supporting the rights of NDIS participants to access COVID-19 vaccination**
- **COVID-19 Hub - National Disability Services**
  - National Disability Services has a range of resources and FAQs to assist providers and workers to access COVID-19 related resources from across sector and government websites in one place.
- **Information for disability service providers about COVID-19 vaccines**
  - The Australian Government Department of Health website has information and resources for disability service providers regarding COVID-19 vaccinations.
- **Vaccine and Coronavirus myth-busting**

The Australian Government Department of Home Affairs website has information around myths surrounding the vaccine.