

## Volunteers and COVID-19 Vaccination Roll-out: Information Sheet (30 March 2021)

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### Background

The Australian COVID-19 vaccination program commenced officially on Monday 22 February 2021. The national roll-out strategy<sup>1</sup> identifies priority populations who will receive the vaccine in the earlier phases.

The information in this document comes from the following federal Department of Health documents:

- The 'staff' [definition](#) for Phase 1a inclusion in residential aged and disability care facilities
- A [slide deck](#) outlining Phase 1b cohorts

### How are volunteers included in the phased roll-out?

#### Phase 1a

- In relation to aged and disability care facilities, volunteers are **not** eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1a.
- All workers, including the many volunteers, who provide care services in a community or home setting are also **not** included in Phase 1a.

#### Phase 1b

- Phase 1b **includes** anyone who is working in a healthcare setting. We have been advised by the Australian Government that this includes volunteers, for example hospital and palliative care volunteers as they are in an at-risk 'workplace' setting.
- Disability and aged care support volunteers who provide support to people in their homes, respite care, educational, employment, leisure and/or residential settings, including those providing transport and advocacy services are **included** in Phase 1b (see slide 12 of the Phase 1b slide deck).
- Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service volunteers are **included** in Phase 1b (see slide 7 of the Phase 1b slide deck).

#### Phase 2a & 2b

- As of 30 March, we are awaiting confirmation of which workers (including volunteers) will be prioritised in subsequent phases.

We are currently urging the Commonwealth Government to ensure that information regarding volunteering is easily accessible on the federal Department of Health website and included in the COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker<sup>2</sup>.

### Further information

For the latest COVID-19 vaccine updates

visit: [www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines](http://www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines)

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-australias-covid-19-vaccine-national-roll-out-strategy> and <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-vaccinated-for-covid-19/when-will-i-get-a-covid-19-vaccine>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility-checker>

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