

Lighthouse

Family News

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Changes to the COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout

Recommendations about the AstraZeneca vaccine

Over the past weeks we've been hearing increasing discussion in the media about the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Late last week the Australian Government announced a change to the COVID-19 vaccine rollout based on new advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

The ATAGI advice is that the AstraZeneca vaccine is not the preferred option for people under the age of 50.

Subsequently the Australian Government has issued a [disability provider alert](#) that outlines the following information:

- The Pfizer vaccine will now be available for people with disability, carers and workers aged between 18 and 50 years old, including people eligible under phase 1a and phase 1b of the vaccine rollout.
- This will have an impact on the pace of the rollout schedule (i.e. the rollout may take longer than expected).
- People who have had a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine without any serious side effects can safely receive the second dose.

We understand that the rollout has already been slower than anticipated, causing frustration and concern for some people, and that this change may slow things further.

Here at Lighthouse Disability we have been maintaining regular communication with both Federal and State Government authorities about vaccination plans for Lighthouse Disability, and advocating for the earliest possible rollout to people with disability and support staff.

We really appreciate your patience at this time.

We also support the decisions of any clients, families and workers who are eligible under phase 1a and phase 1b to seek a COVID-19 vaccine prior to the announcement of vaccination plans for Lighthouse Disability, for example it may be possible to book your vaccine with your local GP.

Our only request in these circumstances is that you let us know if you have received a vaccine.

If you wish to check your eligibility for the vaccine, or anybody in your family, you can use the *Vaccine Eligibility Checker*. Here is the link:

<https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility?lang=en>

We will keep you updated with new information as soon as it becomes available.

If you have any questions, please talk with your MSD.

Michelle Holian
CEO