



29 June 2021

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via email: PMinvites@pmc.gov.au

Dear Prime Minister,

Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination in Aged Care

I am writing on behalf of Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) members across Australia, who are currently working in private residential aged care (i.e. Federal Government run aged care), to seek clarification on the details and requirements relating to Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination in Aged Care, announced by you following yesterday's National Cabinet meeting.

The ANMF is a very strong supporter of immunisation and vaccination, including COVID-19 vaccines, and has been strongly encouraging all members to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as practicable. While many of our members working in state and territory public health systems have been able to access COVID-19 vaccination, this has not been the case for those working in private aged care. This is despite the ANMF advocating for improved access to vaccines and support to enable aged care workers to get vaccinated for the past three months.

The ANMF always adheres to and promotes expert public health advice, most particularly in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. While noting that advice from AHPPC in relation to the direction to mandate COVID-19 vaccination for aged care workers has yet to be released and therefore the precise health evidence for the direction remains unclear, there are many details that need to be clarified.

The ANMF is therefore seeking clarification on the following questions:

1. What education in relation to the vaccines and the announcement will be provided and disseminated to aged care staff?
2. What vaccine will the Government make available to aged care staff and will they be offered a choice of vaccine?
3. Will a workplace delivery program be provided or are staff to rely on existing services only to be vaccinated?

Canberra Office

Unit 3, 28 Eyre Street
Kingston ACT 2604
Australia

T +61 2 6232 6533

F +61 2 6232 6610

E anmffederal@anmf.org.au

W www.anmf.org.au

Melbourne Office

Level 1, 365 Queen Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Australia

T +61 3 9602 8500

F +61 3 9602 8567

E anmffederal@anmf.org.au

W www.anmf.org.au

ANMF Journals

Australian Nursing and
Midwifery Journal (ANMJ)
E anmj@anmf.org.au

Australian Journal of
Advanced Nursing (AJAN)
E ajan@anmf.org.au

ABN 41 816 898 298



4. What are the details of the grants for aged care facilities to support workers to receive the vaccine and what measures will be in place to ensure the grants are used solely for that purpose? And, will the grants apply to both casual and permanent aged care staff?
5. Will special paid leave be provided so that workers do not have to use personal leave for the vaccination and in the event they become unwell, as is available in several public health systems?
6. In the event that an aged care worker suffers a major adverse event following vaccination will they be covered by workers compensation?
7. What evidence will need to be submitted in order to access the above initiatives?
8. What impact will a vaccinated workforce have on the requirement for Single Site Employment directives to be issued into the future?
9. What contingency plans are in place or will be put in place to care for residents in facilities, in the event a number of workers do not receive their first vaccination by the September deadline?
10. Will the COVID-19 vaccine also be mandated for aged care residents, visitors and contractors?
11. Does the announcement also apply to those aged staff who are providing in-home care under home care packages?
12. What is to occur to those who may not have received their first vaccination by the September deadline? Are they to be stood down until they receive their vaccination or dismissed?
13. What arrangements will be in place for those who have legitimate health reasons as to why the vaccine is contraindicated? Will they be dismissed?
14. Will alternate work (other than direct resident care) within the facility be an option to standing down/dismissal that employers will be required to explore/provide?

Thank you for your consideration of this request. As you would appreciate, we are seeking your responses to these critical questions as a matter of urgency to ensure that we can provide the best support possible to ANMF members to understand the process and assist them in accessing COVID-19 vaccination as appropriate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annie Butler'.

Annie Butler
Federal Secretary

cc. Hon Greg Hunt, MP
Hon Richard Colbeck, MP
Alison McMillan, Chief Nursing & Midwifery Officer
Hon Mark Butler, MP