



Australian Government

Department of Health

Chief Medical Officer

Dear Resident,

Your continued protection remains an important focus of the national response to COVID-19, particularly as our communities re-open and families and friends increasingly visit and spend time together.

On 12 December 2021, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommended that booster doses now be brought forward from six to five months after a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

With the emergence of the Omicron variant, residents are now at increased risk. I strongly encourage you to receive your booster dose to keep you safe. Booster doses are safe and will strengthen your protection from serious illness, hospitalisation or death from COVID-19.

Booster clinics are now being organised for all residential aged care facilities. If you are eligible for your booster dose, you can ask your facility to arrange for a general practitioner or pharmacist to give you your booster dose – you do not need to wait for your facility's scheduled booster clinic.

Similarly, if you missed getting your booster on the day of your clinic, your facility can separately arrange for a general practitioner or pharmacist to give you your booster.

You can also receive a first or second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at your facility's booster clinic if required.

If you have any concerns about receiving the booster dose, I encourage you to discuss this with your doctor or other allied health professional. You can also call the COVID-19 Helpline on 1800 020 080 (select option 3) for any questions about vaccination.

Vaccination, including booster doses, remains the greatest defence against COVID-19 for your ongoing safety and well-being.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PKelly', with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Professor Paul Kelly
Chief Medical Officer

16 December 2021