



# COVID-19 Vaccination Consent

## Your role as an Attorney

People living in residential aged care can receive a third COVID-19 vaccination (or booster). A third vaccination has shown to provide greater protection against serious illness and death from COVID-19.

If you are an appointed Attorney who helps an older person with making decisions about health matters, it is important to understand your role and responsibilities when it comes to decision-making about COVID-19 vaccinations.

Attorneys must operate within their scope of powers and are bound by legal responsibilities.

### Have you checked in?

The key to being a good attorney is keeping a human rights focus, remembering that all adults have the same human rights and fundamental freedoms as others in the community, and allowing the person to be informed and participate in decisions that concern them.

Ask questions and use what you know about the person you are supporting. It might need to be a repeated conversation breaking it down into small pieces over time.

### Supported decision-making

Everyone should be afforded the opportunity to give an indication about what their wishes and preferences are. Older people of all cognitive ability must be asked. Attorneys should not simply make decisions on their own.

It needs to be a supported decision-making process. It is the responsibility of Attorneys to support someone to make the decision that they would have normally made (Substituted Judgement).

You can use helpful resources such as *Supporting Decision-Making - A guide for people living with dementia, family members and carers* (available at website below).

### What if I don't agree with the person's wishes?

We know people usually want to make decisions for others from a place of well-meaning and what they think is the best thing to do, but the person's views and preferences must be kept at the forefront.

The right to make decisions is fundamental to the person's dignity and includes the right to make decisions with which others may not agree.

For more information about duties and responsibilities of an Attorney under an Enduring Power of Attorney in Queensland visit [www.adalaw.com.au/future-planning](http://www.adalaw.com.au/future-planning).

Legislation reference: Powers of Attorney Act 1998 (Qld)

