



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care

Ref No: MC21-037808

Mr Craig Tiley
Chief Executive Officer
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29 NOV 2021

Dear Mr Tiley *Craig*

I refer to your correspondence of 10 November 2021 to Professor Allan Cheng and Professor Christopher Blyth, co-chairs of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) concerning individuals travelling to Australia for the 2022 Australian Open who are not fully vaccinated.

I understand you have received support from a number of areas in my Department and that Ms Lisa Schofield, First Assistant Secretary of the National COVID-19 Taskforce, responded to your correspondence on 18 November 2021 about ATAGI advice on being fully vaccinated. I also note your follow-up correspondence to her on 22 November 2021. I understand that further advice was provided to Tennis Australia (Senior Legal Counsel) by my Department through the Office of Health Protection and the Office for Sport.

At this time, decisions to support travel requests into Australia are carefully assessed by the Australian Border Force. The key consideration for the Commonwealth in granting travel approvals, including quarantine and flight arrangements, is to ensure that returning Australians are not displaced and that the general Australian community is protected from unnecessary health risk.

To support this aim, the Australian Border Force has advised that people must be fully vaccinated, as defined by the ATAGI, to gain quarantine-free entry into Australia. As detailed in Ms Schofield's correspondence of 18 November 2021, this means that people who do not meet the ATAGI's definition of fully vaccinated will not be approved for quarantine-free entry, regardless of whether they have received foreign vaccination exemptions.

In relation to your specific questions, I can confirm that people who contracted COVID-19 within the past six months and seek to enter Australia from overseas, and have not received two doses of a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)-approved or TGA-recognised vaccine (or one dose of the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine), are not considered fully vaccinated.

The requirements for meeting the ATAGI's definition of fully vaccinated can be found online at: www.smartraveller.gov.au using the search term 'COVID-19 vaccinations'.

Your correspondence of 22 November 2021 to Ms Schofield asked further questions in relation to the grounds for recording an exemption on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

I can advise the following, noting however that advice concerning the AIR is applicable for domestic purposes only – such as interstate travel, or meeting workplace vaccination requirements – and does not apply in the context of international borders.

- temporary medical contraindications can be reported to the AIR for individuals who meet the relevant requirements in accordance with the ATAGI's clinical guidance
- medical contraindications can only be assessed and reported to the AIR by eligible health professionals, including GPs, paediatricians and infectious disease physicians
- reporting in the AIR is for domestic purposes only and does not apply in the context of international borders.

As you are aware, the conduct of sport and recreation activities, including major sporting events and prevailing quarantine arrangements, is at the discretion of the relevant jurisdiction. We encourage travellers to consult the requirements of the state or territory they plan to visit to compete in the Australia Open and summer series lead-in events, to ensure they can meet the relevant entry requirements. Further information on Victoria's restrictions can be viewed online at: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au using the search term 'coronavirus'.

I encourage sporting organisations, including Tennis Australia, to continue to work with the Australian Border Force, state and territory health authorities and venues on COVID-safe plans for events, including for international travel where this is relevant.

Finally, it is important to note that each individual is responsible for ensuring they meet the requirements for travel to and within Australia. You can find further information at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website at: www.smartraveller.gov.au using the search term 'COVID-19 vaccinations'.

I would like to extend my full support to Tennis Australia and the players for a successful and exciting Australian Open for 2022. Should you require any additional information, please contact Mr Andrew Godkin, First Assistant Secretary of the Office for Sport Division at: Andrew.Godkin@health.gov.au who will be pleased to assist should you have further questions.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Greg Hunt

cc: Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck, Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services and Minister for Sport