Significant events in COVID-19 vaccination practice in Australia

Year	Month	Intervention
2020	October	Vaxzevria (adenovirus viral vector COVID-19 vaccine) granted provisional determination by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), making it eligible for provisional registration Comirnaty (mRNA COVID-19 vaccine) granted provisional determination by the TGA, making it eligible for provisional registration
	November	COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen (adenovirus viral vector) granted provisional determination by TGA, making it eligible for provisional registration
2021	January	Nuvaxovid (protein-based COVID-19 vaccine) granted provisional determination by the TGA, making it eligible for provisional registration Comirnaty provisionally registered for use in individuals aged ≥16 years
	February	Vaxzevria provisionally registered for use in individuals aged ≥18 years National funded COVID-19 vaccination program begins. The rollout is carried out in phases with population groups prioritised as per the advice of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) Phase 1a • Quarantine and border workers • Frontline healthcare worker • Aged care and disability care staff • Aged care and disability care residents Phase 1b • Healthcare workers currently employed and not included in Phase 1a • Household contacts of quarantine and border workers • Critical and high risk workers who are currently employed including defence, police, fire, emergency services and meat processing • Essential outbound travellers with a travel exemption • Elderly people aged ≥80 years • Elderly people aged ≥70 years • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged ≥50 years • Adults with an underlying medical condition or significant disability Phase 2a • People aged ≥50 years • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16–49 years • Other critical and high-risk workers Phase 2b • People aged 16–49 years Phase 3 • People aged <16 years
	March	Phase 1b begins
	April	Recommendations for use of Vaxzevria changed due to an association with thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS): • Comirnaty is preferred over Vaxzevria in individuals aged <50 years • Those who had received their first dose of Vaxzevria with no TTS could still receive their second dose of Vaxzevria
	May	Phase 2a begins in people aged ≥50 years
	June	Recommendations for use of Vaxzevria changed as more data emerge on its association with TTS: • Comirnaty is preferred over Vaxzevria in individuals aged <60 years

Year	Month	Intervention
2021	June	COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen provisionally registered for use in individuals aged ≥18 years Spikevax (mRNA COVID-19 vaccine) granted provisional determination by the TGA, making it eligible for provisional registration
	July	Comirnaty indication age extended to include its use in individuals aged ≥12 years
	August	Spikevax provisionally registered for use in individuals aged ≥18 years
	September	Spikevax indication age extended to include its use in individuals aged ≥12 years
	October	A third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine recommended in severely immunocompromised populations, 2 to 6 months after the second dose of vaccine. An mRNA vaccine preferred over Vaxzevria for this third dose. Comirnaty provisionally registered for a booster dose 6 months after the second dose in immunocompetent individuals aged ≥18 years A booster dose is recommended for immunocompetent individuals aged ≥18 years, who had their primary COVID-19 vaccine course ≥6 months ago. The highest priority groups recommended to receive booster doses are those with risk factors for severe COVID-19 and/or those at increased occupational risk of COVID-19. Comirnaty is preferred irrespective of the COVID-19 vaccine used for the primary course.
	December	Comirnaty indication age extended to include use in individuals aged ≥5 years Spikevax provisionally registered for a booster dose 6 months post dose 2, in immunocompetent individuals aged ≥18 years 12 December: Because of ongoing transmission of Omicron and Delta variants of SARS-CoV-2, the recommended minimum interval between the primary course and the booster dose shortened from 6 months to 5 months 24 December: The recommended minimum interval between the primary course and the booster dose shortened from 5 months to 4 months and when capacity permits (in late January 2022), 3 months.
2022	January	Nuvaxovid provisionally registered for use in individuals aged ≥18 years for the primary course. Comirnaty provisionally registered for a booster dose 6 months post dose 2 in individuals aged 16–17 years Funded vaccination rollout begins in children aged 5–11 years Severely immunocompromised children aged 5 to 11 years recommended to receive a third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 2 to 6 months after their second dose, in line with other severely immunocompromised age cohorts. People aged ≥18 years who received a 3-dose primary course due to severe immunocompromise recommended to receive a booster (4th) dose ≥4 months after their third dose.
	February	A booster dose recommended for individuals aged 16–17 years, who had their primary COVID-19 vaccine course ≥3 months ago.