

# Valid Consent.

[immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/vaccination-procedures](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/vaccination-procedures)

Valid consent is the **voluntary** agreement by an individual to a proposed procedure, which is given after **sufficient, appropriate and reliable information** about the procedure, including the **potential risks and benefits**, has been conveyed to that individual.

As part of the consent procedure, people receiving vaccines and/or their parents or carers should be given **sufficient information** (preferably written) about the **risks and benefits** of each vaccine. This includes:

- what **adverse events are possible**
- **how common they are**
- what they **should do about them**

## Criteria for valid consent

For consent to be **legally valid**, the following elements must be present:

1. It must be given by a person with **legal capacity**, and of **sufficient intellectual capacity to understand the implications** of receiving a vaccine.
2. It must be given **voluntarily** in the **absence of undue pressure, coercion or manipulation**.
3. It must cover the specific procedure that is to be performed.
4. It can only be given **after** the **potential risks and benefits** of the relevant vaccine, **the risks of not having it**, and **any alternative options** have been explained to the person.

The person **must have the opportunity to seek more details or explanations** about the vaccine or its administration.

The information must be provided in a **language** or by other means that the **person can understand**. Where appropriate, involve an interpreter or cultural support person.

Obtain consent before each vaccination, after establishing that there are **no medical condition(s) that contraindicate vaccination**. Consent can be **verbal** or **written**.