
Re: SA Health confirms valid consent required for every vaccine

Elizabeth Hart <elizmhart@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 10, 2026 at 3:31 PM

To: "Health:Minister for Health" <ministerforhealth@sa.gov.au>, HealthCommunicableDiseases@sa.gov.au
Cc: minister.butler@health.gov.au, senator.ruston@aph.gov.au, Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au, senator.michaelia.cash@aph.gov.au, Malcolm Roberts <senator.roberts@aph.gov.au>, "Antic, Alex (Senator)" <senator.antic@aph.gov.au>, "Babet, Ralph (Senator Office)" <senator.babet@aph.gov.au>, "Clutterham, Claire (MP Office)" <claire.clutterham.mp@aph.gov.au>, "Batty, Jack" <Jack.Batty@parliament.sa.gov.au>, ACSQHC_CEO@safetyandquality.gov.au, cmo@safetyandquality.gov.au

For the attention of:

The Hon Blair Boyer MP
Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Copied to:

Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Ageing
Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care
The Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Attorney-General
Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Shadow Attorney-General
Senator Malcolm Roberts, Senator for Queensland
Senator Alex Antic, Senator for South Australia
Senator Ralph Babet, Senator for Victoria
Ms Claire Clutterham MP, Federal Member for Sturt
Mr Jack Batty MP, State Member for Bragg
Professor Anne Duggan, CEO, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC)
Professor Carolyn Hullick, Chief Medical Officer, ACSQHC

Dear Minister Boyer

Thank you for the response from your department (see email thread below) confirming:

"Valid consent is required before the administration of every vaccine and was a well-established routine practice prior to the commencement of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program." (Emphasis added.)

But during the COVID-19 response, the South Australian Government imposed **vaccination mandates** under which many people in South Australia faced serious penalties if they refused COVID-19 vaccination, including the loss of employment and restrictions on participation in everyday life. These vaccination mandates were issued as Directions by Police Commissioner and State Coordinator Grantley Stevens under the *Emergency Management Act 2004*.

On 14 December 2021, *ABC News* reported Commissioner Stevens as saying:

"I think there will be an incentive for people to get vaccinated if they want to fully participate in all the activities we normally enjoy."^[1]

How could 'valid consent' be obtained by practitioners in such coercive circumstances?

Your department's response to me refers to the Australian Government's responsibility for the COVID-19 Vaccination Program and its associated guidance. However, it was South Australian practitioners – doctors, nurses and pharmacists – who administered that Australian Government program to South Australians, **within an environment of coercion created by the Marshall Liberal Government's vaccination mandates, issued as Directions by Commissioner Stevens.**

The Australian Government's *Handling consent refusal by people presenting for vaccination* guidance, published on 15 December 2021, which your department referenced in its response, states:

"Informed consent is an individual's **voluntary** decision to agree to a healthcare treatment, procedure or intervention, such as a COVID-19 vaccination, in its entirety, after the individual has been provided understandable, sufficient, appropriate and reliable information about the intervention, including the potential risks and benefits."

The guidance further states:

"A patient **must** provide informed consent prior to vaccination."

"If a patient has not provided informed consent, you **should not** vaccinate them, even if they are mandated to receive a COVID-19 vaccination to perform particular roles or enter certain settings."

It logically follows that a practitioner cannot ethically proceed with the medical intervention without valid voluntary informed consent.

In light of the above, I request your response to the following questions:

- How does the South Australian Government reconcile the coercive COVID-19 vaccination mandates, imposed through Commissioner Stevens' Directions, with practitioners' personal, non-delegable obligation to obtain valid voluntary informed consent before administering every COVID-19 vaccination?
- As raised in my original email to you, I again ask whether SA Health received the Australian Government's *Handling consent refusal by people presenting for vaccination* guidance, published in December 2021. If so, when was the guidance received and what action, if any, was taken to communicate or distribute it to practitioners delivering the Australian Government's COVID-19 Vaccination Program under the Marshall Liberal Government's COVID-19 vaccination mandates?

Given the broader public interest in these questions, I have copied other parliamentarians and office holders as witnesses to this correspondence.

I look forward to your early response.

Kind regards

Elizabeth Hart

Independent researcher on medical ethics and vaccination policy
vaccinationispolitical.net

Reference:

1. Nick Harmsen, Eugene Boisvert and Sara Tomevska, 'South Australia on track to further ease COVID-19 restrictions by the end of the year', ABC News, 14 December 2021.

On Fri, Aug 7, 2026 at 11:30 AM Health:Communicable Diseases <HealthCommunicableDiseases@sa.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Dear Ms Hart,

Thank you for your email dated 11 July 2026, to Hon Blair Boyer MP, Minister for Health and Wellbeing, regarding the resource, Handling consent refusal by people presenting for vaccination. As this matter falls within Communicable Disease Control Branch's (CDCB) area of responsibility, CDCB are responding on the Minister's behalf.

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The "Handling consent refusal by people presenting for vaccination" document was published in 2021 to assist health professionals at the time mandates may have been in place. This content outlines the standard process for obtaining valid consent, which all immunisation providers complete as part of the pre-vaccination screening assessment prior to administering any vaccine. Valid consent is required before the administration of every vaccine and was a well-established routine practice prior to the commencement of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

As responsibility for the COVID-19 Vaccination Program lies with the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, any questions regarding the distribution and promotion of resources developed to support program delivery should be raised directly with that agency, as you have done.

Thank you for your enquiry.

Regards,

Communicable Disease Control Branch | Public Health Division

Department for Health and Wellbeing | SA Health | Government of South Australia

E: Health.PHDBusinessSupport@sa.gov.au | **W:** www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

A: Level 3 Citi Centre Building, Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide SA 5000

We acknowledge and respect Aboriginal peoples as the state's first peoples and nations, and recognise Aboriginal peoples as Traditional Owners and occupants of land and waters in South Australia.



From: Elizabeth Hart <elizmhart@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, 11 July 2026 10:55 AM
To: Health:Minister for Health <ministerforhealth@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Operation COVID Shield 'Handling Consent Refusal' Guidance - SA Health

For the attention of:
The Hon. Blair Boyer MP
Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Dear Minister

I recently wrote to the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon. Mark Butler MP, seeking information regarding the communication and distribution of the Australian Government's Operation COVID Shield guidance document *COVID-19 vaccination – Handling consent refusal by people presenting for vaccination*. A copy of my correspondence is forwarded below for your information.

I would be grateful if you could advise whether SA Health received this Commonwealth guidance document.

If so, I would appreciate any information you can provide regarding when it was received and what action, if any, was taken to communicate or distribute the guidance within SA Health.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Elizabeth Hart
Independent researcher on medical ethics and vaccination policy
vaccinationispolitical.net

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Elizabeth Hart <elizmhart@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Jun 2, 2026 at 3:30PM
Subject: Re: Operation COVID Shield 'Handling Consent Refusal' Guidance
To: <minister.butler@health.gov.au>
Cc: <senator.ruston@aph.gov.au>, Senator Malcolm Roberts<senator.roberts@onenationorg.au>, Babet, Ralph (Senator Office) <senator.babet@aph.gov.au>, Antic, Alex (Senator) <senator.antic@aph.gov.au>, <Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au>, <senator.michaelia.cash@aph.gov.au>, Batty, Jack <Jack.Batty@parliament.sa.gov.au>, Clutterham, Claire (MP Office) <claire.clutterham.mp@aph.gov.au>

For the attention of:
The Hon. Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Ageing

Dear Minister Butler

I am seeking clarification regarding the Australian Government's Operation COVID Shield guidance document for practitioners:

Handling consent refusal by people presenting for vaccination (Copy attached.)

This government guidance document for practitioners states that:

"Informed consent is an individual's **voluntary** decision to agree to a healthcare treatment, procedure or intervention, such as a COVID-19 vaccination, in its entirety, after the individual has been provided understandable, sufficient, appropriate and reliable information about the intervention, including the potential risks and benefits."

This government document warns practitioners that they *should not* proceed with COVID-19 vaccination where informed consent is not given, i.e.

"A patient **must** provide informed consent prior to vaccination."

"If a patient has not provided informed consent, you **should not** vaccinate them, even if they are mandated to receive a COVID-19 vaccination to perform particular roles or enter certain settings."

This government guidance for practitioners was **published on 15 December 2021** (publication details attached), **after COVID-19 vaccination mandates had already been implemented in many settings**. The timing of the guidance therefore raises an additional question regarding when and how widely it was communicated to practitioners.

Could you please advise what action was taken by the Australian Government to circulate this *Handling consent refusal* guidance to vaccinating practitioners?

In particular:

- The government guidance for practitioners was published on 15 December 2021 - when was it first circulated to practitioners participating in the COVID-19 vaccination rollout?
- Was the government guidance provided directly to medical practitioners, nurses and pharmacists or other practitioners participating in the COVID-19 vaccination rollout?
- Was it distributed through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) and National Boards, professional colleges and associations, medical schools, health departments, public and private health services, vaccination hubs, Primary Health Networks, medical defence organisations and insurers, or other channels?
- Was there any requirement or expectation that vaccinating practitioners read or acknowledge the government guidance? How was this recorded?

I would appreciate any information you can provide regarding how this government guidance was communicated to the practitioners expected to obtain voluntary informed consent during the COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

I have also copied relevant political representatives as witnesses that this request has been raised.

Kind regards

Elizabeth Hart
Independent researcher on medical ethics and vaccination policy
vaccinationispolitical.net