# 16 Obtaining informed consent

Prior to administering the vaccination, the registered health professional must obtain informed consent, per the *Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights* (the Code). The steps to recording the outcome of the informed consent question is:

- The vaccinator or an administrative support person must record in the AIR vaccinator portal or PMS the consumer's consent to approve or decline administration of vaccine.
- The Programme assumes verbal consent is agreeable in most situations.
- Written consent can be considered in the following situations below:
  a. where there are significant risk of adverse effects to the consumer, per **clause 7(6c) of the Code**
  b. if it is being prescribed. For more information, please refer to the below 'Prescription' section.
  c. if this is the provider's or vaccinator's preference, for example, in aged residential care settings.
- Where written consent is recorded under points a. b. and/or c. above, the provider is responsible for ensuring the forms are archived as a part of the consumer's clinical record.
- Please always use the most up to date consent form.

Where a consumer is not competent to make an informed choice and give consent for their vaccine, someone who has the legal right can make decisions on the consumer's behalf; namely a legal guardian or someone who currently holds Enduring Power of Attorney for personal care and welfare.

See **Appendix H** which displays the process for consumers requiring support to consent to the COVID-19 Vaccination. . For more information regarding obtaining informed consent, see the ***Immunisation Handbook*, chapter 2**.

For more information regarding supported decision making, or to access the training module specific to COVID-19 Vaccine Supported Decision Making, see IMAC Learning Courses at **IMAC Learning**.

## Obtaining written consent for the Nuvaxovid vaccine

The Programme requires written consent to be obtained before administering the Nuvaxovid vaccine as a second primary dose after a non-Nuvaxovid vaccination.

## Informed consent for consumers aged 12 to 15 years

Under the code of rights, every consumer, including a child, has the right to the information they need to make an informed choice or to give informed consent. Therefore, a young person aged 12-15 years can provide their own informed consent or refusal to consent if they are deemed competent to give consent, and a parent or guardian does not need to provide consent or be present. Some of these young people may choose to have their parent or guardian consent on their behalf and that is fine.

### Verbal or written consent for consumers aged 12 to 15 years

Informed consent for consumers aged 12-15 years can be verbal, however, written consent can be obtained if it is the provider's or vaccinator's preference.