



National Indigenous Immunisation message stick newsletter August 2018

Changes to early childhood vaccinations from 1st July 2018

Babies and young children can access vaccines at no cost to protect them against serious diseases.

From 1 July 2018, the childhood immunisation schedule has been updated based on the advice of clinical experts. There are changes to the vaccines given at the 12 and 18 month schedule points.

Changes to early childhood vaccinations include:

- a pneumococcal dose will be offered to all children at 12 months of age (moved from 6 months of age). Clinical experts recommended this change to reduce disease in children and improve protection in all age groups through community immunity.
- a new vaccine protecting against 4 types (ACWY) of meningococcal disease (up from 1) will be offered to all children at 12 months of age.
- A booster dose of vaccine protecting against *Haemophilus influenzae* type b will be offered to all children aged 18 months of age (moved from 12 months).

To find out more, new resources are available:

<https://beta.health.gov.au/news-and-events/news/changes-to-the-childhood-immunisation-schedule-start-1-july-2018>



National immunisation coverage rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Immunisation coverage for one and five year olds has increased since 2007. We have reached the aspirational target of 95 per cent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander five year olds. We are getting closer for one year olds but still have some work to do for two years olds.

As at March 2018, the coverage rates were:

- 92.5 per cent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander one year olds
- 88.4 per cent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander two year olds
- 96.5 per cent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander five year olds

Coverage rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander one year olds

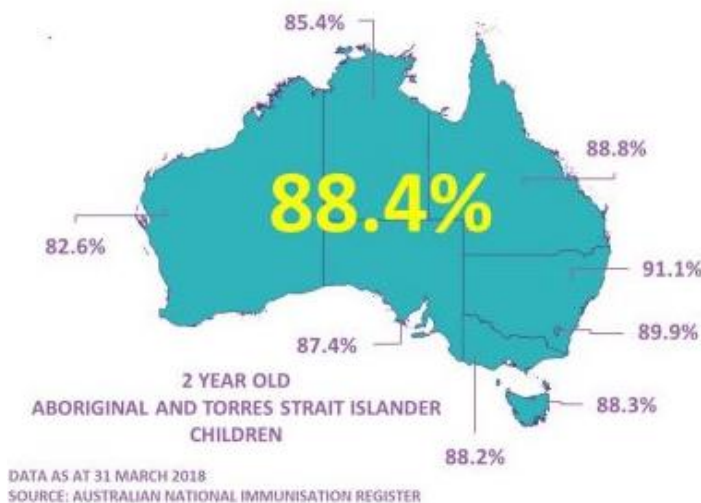
Four states and territories (ACT, New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria) have coverage rates above the national rate.





Coverage rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander two year olds

While coverage rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander two year olds are low compared to non – indigenous children, this is because of recent changes to the immunisation schedule.



Coverage rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander five year olds

Two states and territories (New South Wales and Queensland) have coverage rates above the national rate.





Local area coverage rates

Coverage rates for local areas can be quite different to the state or territory rates. To explore coverage in your local area, take a look at:

<https://beta.health.gov.au/resources/publications/childhood-immunisation-coverage-data-phn-and-sa3#phn-data-by-year>

Reminder to get your flu shot

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged from six months to less than five years have been able to receive the seasonal influenza vaccine for free under the National Immunisation Program since 2015.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are five times more likely than non-Indigenous children to die from the flu, and are much more likely to be hospitalised.

Those who survive a severe flu can suffer lasting health complications including pneumonia, heart, blood system and liver problems.

Funded influenza vaccines are also available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over, and any people over six months who have specific medical condition that increase their susceptibility to influenza.





6 MONTHS TO LESS THAN 3 YEARS OF AGE

FluQuadri™ Junior

- All children aged 6 to 35 months (including Aboriginal children and those with medical risk factors)
- Give two doses one month apart if first year of receiving flu vaccine



3 YEARS TO 64 YEARS

FluQuadri™ OR Fluarix Tetra®

- All children 3 years to less than 5 years
- People 36 months of age to 64 years with medical risk factors predisposing to severe influenza
- Give two doses one month apart for children aged 3 to less than 9 years if first year of receiving flu vaccine
- All Aboriginal persons 36 months to 5 years of age & 15 years to 64 years
- Pregnant women
- **Do not give a half dose**
- **Do not use for children less than 3 years of age**



18 – 64 YEARS

Afluria Quad®

- Adults 18 to 64 years of age with medical risk factors predisposing to severe influenza
- Aboriginal adults 18 to 64 years of age
- Pregnant women
- **Do not use for persons less than 18 years of age**



65 YEARS AND OVER (only)

Fluzone High Dose®

- Trivalent vaccine
- 4 times dose of influenza A(H1N1), A(H3N2) and B-Yamagata strains
- All persons aged 65 years and over

Fluad®

- Trivalent vaccine
- Influenza A(H1N1), A(H3N2) and B-Yamagata strains with MF59 adjuvant
- All persons aged 65 years and over





Seeking an Aboriginal/ Torres Strait Islander Artist/ Group to design artwork

The National Centre for Immunisation Research & Surveillance (NCIRS) acknowledges that it is on the land of the traditional owners the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, and recognises their culture, history, diversity and their deep connection to the land. Together, through research and partnership, we aim to move to a place of equity for all. NCIRS also acknowledges and pays respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations from which our research, staff and community are drawn.

NCIRS is a research organisation that provides independent expert advice on all aspects of vaccine preventable diseases and social and other issues related to immunisation to inform policy and planning for immunisation services in Australia. NCIRS is preparing to publish another national surveillance report Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) and vaccination coverage in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 2011-2015 and a summary publication Vaccination for Our Mob, 2011-2015, designed for Aboriginal Immunisation Health Care Workers and Aboriginal Health Workers.

We are seeking an Aboriginal/ Torres Strait Islander artist or group to design an original piece of artwork to be used on printed material and web based media. The artwork theme will be Protect your mob – get vaccinated the artist must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Be over the age of 15 years of age

Entry

Artists are asked to submit a sketch reflecting the theme Protect your mob – get vaccinated. In your submission please include your sketch and a short written outline about how your design reflects the theme. The successful submission will be selected by a judging panel made up of Aboriginal Community Representatives. Only the selected artist will be reimbursed for their artwork.



The successful Artist/Group will receive \$3000 for the purchase of the artwork design, including all rights associated with the artwork.

All rights including copyright are included in the purchase price. Artists acknowledge that the art work will be digitalised and reproduced for marketing in all forms of media, publications and documents for the programs related to the NCIRS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Immunisation Initiative. There will be no end date to this agreement and artwork. The successful artist/group will be required to sign a letter of understanding agreeing to the above Terms and Conditions.

Submissions are due by COB Friday 31st August. Applicants will be notified of the outcome on 3rd September 2018.

The successful artist/s will then be asked to provide a finalised version of the art work by the 7th September for the artwork to be printed for the Vaccination for our Mob report.

Please note late submissions are unable to be accepted.

For further information please contact Katrina on the below details

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