

Table 4: Significant events in hepatitis B vaccination practice in Australia

Year	Month	Intervention
1973		CSL began manufacturing hepatitis B immunoglobulin
1982		Serum-derived hepatitis B vaccine registered for use in adults
1984		Qld state funded infant hepatitis B vaccination program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other 'at-risk' groups commenced
1985		Serum-derived hepatitis B vaccine registered for use in neonates
1986		Vaccination recommended for at-risk adults (3 doses): • high-risk populations such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and immigrants and refugees from high-endemicity countries • healthcare workers (including dentists, acupuncturists and morgue attendants) • residents and staff of institutions for the intellectually disabled • homosexual men • injecting drug users • haemodialysis patients • recipients of factor VIII or IX blood product concentrates • household and sexual contacts of hepatitis B carriers • inmates of correctional facilities and prison wardens Vaccination recommended for babies born to HBsAg positive mothers (3 doses: birth, 1 month, 6 months)
1986		Qld state funded hepatitis B vaccination program for at-risk groups commenced
1987–1988		Two recombinant hepatitis B vaccines registered, replacing the serum-derived vaccine
~1987		Vaccination recommended for infants and young children in ethnic groups with a high hepatitis B carriage rate (<i>note</i> : this recommendation was implemented at different times in each jurisdiction)
1987		Vic state funded hepatitis B vaccination program for at-risk infants commenced (birth dose)
1988	January	NT state funded hepatitis B vaccination program for at-risk infants commenced (3-dose schedule: birth, 1 month, 6 months)
1989		Qld state funded hepatitis B vaccination program for at-risk groups expanded
1990	August	State funded neonatal hepatitis B vaccination for all infants introduced in the NT (3-dose schedule: birth, 2 months, 6 months)
1991		List of at-risk individuals for whom hepatitis B vaccination recommended expanded to include staff and attendees of non-residential institutions for the intellectually disabled, patients being treated for a sexually transmitted disease and long-term travellers to high-endemicity countries
1993		NT state funded infant hepatitis B vaccination program changed to 3-dose schedule: birth, 1 month, 6 months
1994		A single booster dose of hepatitis B vaccine recommended for high-risk individuals 5 years after their last vaccination, with the exception of children aged <10 years vaccinated as infants

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1996		Hepatitis B vaccination recommended and funded for all adolescents aged 11–12 years (3-dose schedule using the paediatric formulation) Vaccination recommended for all infants (birth, 1 month, 6–12 months)
1997	February	List of at-risk individuals for whom hepatitis B vaccination recommended expanded to include individuals with chronic liver disease or hepatitis C and police and members of the armed forces (depending on duties)
	February	Hepatitis B vaccination funded for adolescents aged 11–12 years (3-dose schedule)
1998		School-based programs commenced for one cohort of adolescents aged 11–14 years in Vic and Tas One-off, school-based catch-up campaign conducted in the NT for children aged 6–16 years (3-dose schedule: 0, 1, 6 months)
	April	Qld state funded hepatitis B vaccination program (3-dose schedule) for adolescents aged 13 years commenced
1999	February	School-based programs commenced for one cohort of adolescents aged 11–14 years in SA and ACT. Other jurisdictions delivered vaccine through community immunisation providers (e.g. GPs, councils) Combined DTPa-hepB vaccine registered for primary immunisation and as a booster in children
	December	Combined Hib(PRPP-OMP)-hepB vaccine registered for use in infants aged 6 weeks to 15 months
2000	March	Thiomersal-free paediatric hepatitis B vaccine registered Hepatitis B booster doses no longer recommended, except for immunocompromised individuals
	March	List of at-risk individuals for whom hepatitis B vaccination recommended expanded to include embalmers, ambulance personnel and individuals adopting children who are HBsAg positive from overseas
	May	Funded vaccination of all infants in a childhood schedule with a birth dose of monovalent paediatric hepatitis B vaccine, followed by 3 doses of combination vaccine: • DTPa-hepB vaccine (ACT, NSW, NT, Qld and SA) at 2, 4 and 6 months • Hib(PRPP-OMP)-hepB vaccine (Tas, Vic and WA) at 2, 4 and 12 months
2001	April	Combined DTPa-hepB-IPV and DTPa-hepB-IPV-Hib vaccines registered for primary immunisation in infants aged ≥6 weeks and as a booster in children aged 18 months Adolescent school-based vaccination program in the ACT, Qld and Vic changed to using 2 doses of the adult formulation
2001		Vic state funded hepatitis B vaccination program for people who inject drugs commenced
2002		Adolescent school-based vaccination program in SA and WA changed to use 2 doses of the adult formulation
2003	September	Adolescent school-based vaccination program in Tas changed to use 2 doses of the adult formulation List of at-risk individuals for whom hepatitis B vaccination recommended expanded to include HIV-positive individuals, other immunosuppressed adults, liver transplant recipients, tattooists and body piercers

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2004		NSW commenced state-wide adolescent school-based vaccination program using 2 doses of the adult formulation
2005	September	WA state funded hepatitis B vaccination program commenced for people at increased risk of acquiring these infections by sexual transmission and/or injecting drug use, and for people newly notified to the Communicable Disease Control Directorate with hepatitis C
	November	Combined DTPa-hepB-IPV-Hib vaccine used in ACT, NSW, Tas and WA (for non-Indigenous infants); Hib-hepB-containing vaccine continued to be used in other jurisdictions and in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants in WA
2008	March	Combined DTPa-hepB-IPV-Hib vaccine used in Qld, SA and Vic
2009	February	Combined DTPa-hepB-IPV-Hib vaccine used in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants in WA
	March	Advice provided in NSW that 1st dose of DTPa-hepB-IPV-Hib vaccine could be given as early as 6 weeks of age
	October	Combined DTPa-hepB-IPV-Hib vaccine used in NT
2010		Vic state funded hepatitis B vaccination program expanded to include people living with HIV
2011	November	NT refugee vaccination policy published, which included NT state funded hepatitis B vaccination
		Advice provided nationally that 1st dose of DTPa-hepB-IPV-Hib vaccine could be given as early as 6 weeks of age
2012	February	Vic state funded hepatitis B vaccination program expanded to include people living with hepatitis C
2013	March	List of at-risk individuals for whom hepatitis B vaccination recommended expanded to include patients with severe impairment of renal function, solid organ and haematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients, and sex industry workers
	March	List of at-risk individuals for whom hepatitis B vaccination recommended revised for recipients of factor VIII or IX blood product concentrates to be persons with clotting disorders who receive blood product concentrates or persons with recurrent transfusion requirements
	December	Funded adolescent school-based vaccination program ceased
2014	January	Hepatitis B vaccine funded by Vic for the following individuals at risk of developing hepatitis B: - people who inject drugs or who are on opioid substitution therapy - sexual contacts of people living with hepatitis B - men who have sex with men
	September	Second combined DTPa-hepB-IPV-Hib vaccine registered for use in infants aged ≥6 weeks
2015	May	NT state funded hepatitis B vaccination program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 20–50 years commenced
	October	Hepatitis B vaccine funded by Tas for the following individuals at risk of developing hepatitis B: - people who inject drugs - migrants and refugees from high-endemic hepatitis B regions

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		- sexual contacts of people with hepatitis B infection - household contacts of people with hepatitis B infection - people with HIV or hepatitis C - men who have sex with men - sex workers
2016		Hepatitis B vaccine funded by SA for the following individuals aged >15 years at risk of developing hepatitis B: - people who inject drugs - detainees and new humanitarian refugees - sexual contacts of people with chronic or acute hepatitis B infection - household or other close contacts of people with chronic or acute hepatitis B infection - people with HIV, chronic liver disease and/or hepatitis C - inmates of correction and youth justice facilities - men who have sex with men - clients of sexual health services - sex workers - homeless individuals - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults - individuals with developmental disabilities A 2+1 dose schedule was approved for first combined DTPa-hepB-IPV-Hib vaccine
2017	January	Hepatitis B vaccine funded by Vic for all non-immune Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people from endemic countries
2018	April	A 2+1 dose schedule approved for second combined DTPa-hepB-IPV-Hib vaccine
	July	Tas state funded hepatitis B vaccination program expanded to include all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and inmates of correctional facilities
2020	December	WA state funded hepatitis B vaccination program expanded to include non-immune Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 20 years and over
2022	March	Combined DT5aP-hepB-IPV-Hib(PRP-OMP) vaccine (Vaxelis) registered for use for primary and booster vaccination in infants and toddlers from 6 weeks of age
2023	July	Vaxelis funded under NIP as an alternative vaccine to Infanrix hexa
2026	January	Hepatitis A and hepatitis B combination vaccine (Twinrix Junior) no longer available in Australia