

Immunisation: NSW priorities

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Chief Health Officer & Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health

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Acknowledgement of country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters in which we all work, live and learn.

We recognise the incredible richness, strength and resilience of the world's oldest living cultures, including cultural practices, languages and connection to Country.

Left: The artwork 'Journey Together' (2023) by Mumbulla Creative recognises the knowledge, strength and capacity within Aboriginal communities to improve their health and the health of their community by embarking on a journey to quitting smoking and vaping.

Immunisation is everyone's business



How do we get there?

Making immunisation everyone's business

Embed
immunisation in
routine
healthcare

Enhance
community
awareness and
understanding of
immunisation

Maximise
workforce
capacity to
support
immunisation

Use data to
better drive
performance and
outcomes

Optimise the use
of digital systems
to support
programs

Prepare to adopt
and implement
new vaccines



Use data to better drive performance and outcomes

Antenatal visits are an important opportunity to improve delivery of effective vaccines



Young infants
are...

90%

less likely to get
whooping cough
(pertussis)

72%

less likely to be
hospitalised for
influenza

57%

less likely to be
hospitalised for
RSV

...if their mother
received the
corresponding
vaccine during
pregnancy

Maternal vaccination coverage in NSW, 2022-23

Pertussis

82%

Influenza

57%

RSV

N/A – new
vaccine in
2025



Use data to better drive performance and outcomes

We need to better leverage touchpoints with NSW Health facilities to immunise people who are otherwise missing out



Influenza vaccination is associated with a 29% reduced odds* of all-cause death *yet...* in renal dialysis patients

59%

of renal dialysis patients in NSW were not vaccinated for influenza in 2024

60%

of unvaccinated people aged 65+ who have been hospitalised in NSW during the influenza season **remain unvaccinated** by the end of the season



Use data to better drive performance and outcomes

There is considerable room to improve influenza vaccine coverage



Snapshot of the 2025 influenza vaccination coverage data in Australia, by jurisdiction

All persons

	ACT	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	AUS
6 mo–<5 yrs	48.4	24.4	30.4	20.1	27.6	23.0	29.6	35.4	25.7
5–<15 yrs	24.3	13.3	16.0	13.2	15.3	15.3	14.8	12.8	14.5
15–<50 yrs	32.7	19.5	23.7	18.3	23.6	18.8	23.4	21.5	20.8
50–<65 yrs	44.3	30.1	34.2	31.4	36.2	30.9	39.4	25.4	32.3
≥65 yrs	66.0	58.2	61.8	60.4	66.6	59.8	67.9	34.9	60.5

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons

	ACT	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	AUS
6 mo–<5 yrs	30.5	16.9	21.1	14.1	17.2	17.3	21.3	35.8	17.8
5–<15 yrs	17.0	10.8	12.1	10.3	11.9	11.2	12.5	20.7	11.6
15–<50 yrs	25.9	16.7	19.2	15.5	18.8	15.2	19.1	29.3	17.7
50–<65 yrs	45.9	36.4	36.4	34.6	37.7	32.1	45.1	42.3	36.4
≥65 yrs	68.5	62.0	62.7	59.2	62.9	53.4	69.4	45.2	59.6

Year-to-date (YTD) coverage calculated using vaccinations given 1 March–31 August 2025 (inclusive). AIR data as at 7 September 2025.

Source: National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance.

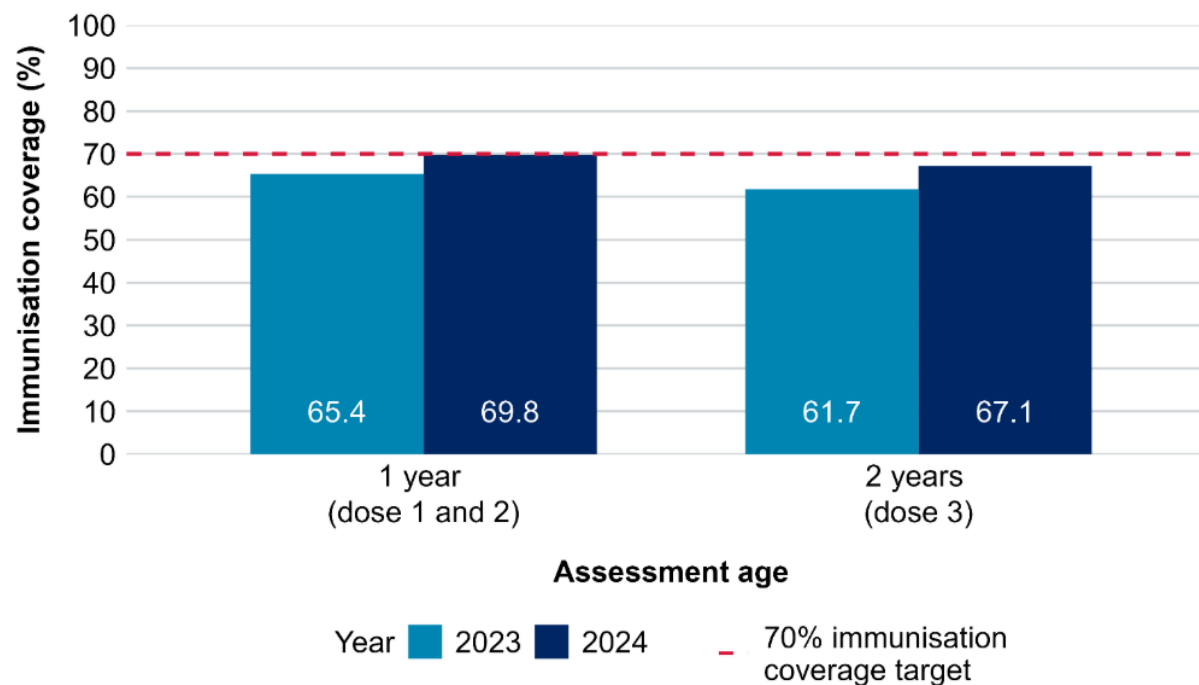


Use data to better drive performance and outcomes

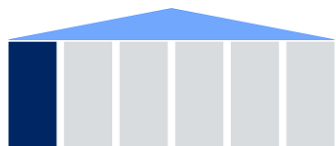
There is room to improve meningococcal B vaccine coverage



Meningococcal B immunisation coverage for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by assessment age and dose



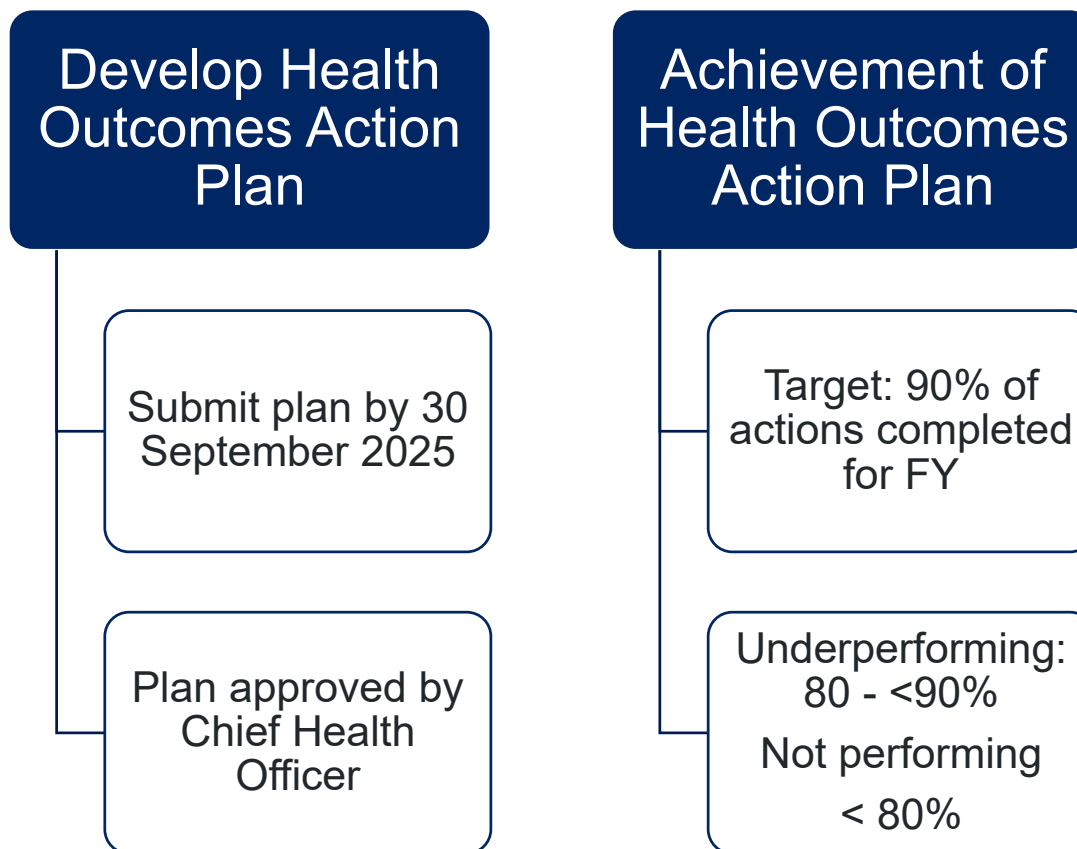
Data source: childhood immunisation coverage data from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR), which combines the March, June, September and December assessment quarters for each reported year. Data were provided to NSW Health by Services Australia in March 2025

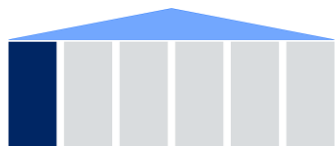


Embed immunisation in routine healthcare

Elevating immunisation in the 2025-2029 Service Level Agreements

- Local Health District (LHDs) Chief Executives were required to choose up to three priority areas to focus on over the four-year horizon
 - Six LHDs, serving over 3.7 million people, haven chosen to focus on immunisation
 - Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, St Vincent's Hospital, and Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health have also chosen immunisation
- All** LHDs will also receive an incentive payment for every RSV, pertussis, and influenza vaccine that they give during pregnancy





Embed immunisation in routine healthcare

Priority Populations Immunisation Program (PPIP)

- Eight LHDs have been funded to build capacity to offer vaccination as part of good clinical care, including in inpatient and outpatient settings.
- South Eastern Sydney Local Health District has used PPIP funds to establish *VaxConnect*. Components include:
 - vaccinating people attending outpatient appointments for renal dialysis, aged care, and infectious diseases
 - a fortnightly, walk-in vaccination clinic for Aboriginal people at the La Perouse Aboriginal Community Health Centre



La Perouse Aboriginal Community Health Centre

FREE VACCINATIONS

Aboriginal Elders, Aunties, Uncles, Adults and Pregnant Women are all welcome

Available vaccinations include:
Shingles, COVID-19 and Pneumococcal for all adults.
Vaccines for pregnant women. No appointment required - Walk-ins Welcome

01 Jul	Tuesday 1 July 9:00am - 1:00pm	15 Jul	Tuesday 15 July 9:00am - 1:00pm	29 Jul	Tuesday 29 July 9:00am - 1:00pm
12 Aug	Tuesday 12 August 9:00am - 1:00pm	26 Aug	Tuesday 26 August 9:00am - 1:00pm	09 Sep	Tuesday 9 September 9:00am - 1:00pm
23 Sep	Tuesday 23 September 9:00am - 1:00pm	07 Oct	Tuesday 7 October 9:00am - 1:00pm	21 Oct	Tuesday 21 October 9:00am - 1:00pm
04 Nov	Tuesday 4 November 9:00am - 1:00pm	18 Nov	Tuesday 18 November 9:00am - 1:00pm	02 Dec	Tuesday 2 December 9:00am - 1:00pm
		16 Dec	Tuesday 16 December 9:00am - 1:00pm		

For more information, call the Aboriginal Health Team
9382-8333 or 0439 413 094

1 Elaroo Ave, Phillip Bay NSW 2036

STAY STRONG - STAY HEALTHY - PROTECT OUR MOB



Enhance community awareness and understanding

Immunisation messaging features in:

- NSW Winter Respiratory Campaign
- Keep our Mob Safe electronic direct mail (eDMs)
- Yarn Up newsletter
- Paid advertising on NITV, Koori Mail and in Aboriginal Medical Services
- Videos with community members



NSW Immunisation Schedule Visit the NSW Health website to view the current NSW Immunisation Schedule at: health.nsw.gov.au/schedule	More information NSW Health Website health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation SKAI - Sharing Knowledge About Immunisation skai.org.au Australian Immunisation Register servicesaustralia.gov.au/australian-immunisation-register NSW Antenatal Pertussis Vaccination Program www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/pages/wc-newborns.aspx	NSW Health Important vaccines for Pregnancy
Aboriginal Immunisation Health Workers Aboriginal Immunisation Health Workers help Aboriginal people keep up to date with vaccines. This protects family and community from harmful diseases. Find out more at: www.health.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal-immunisation Check when your child's vaccination is due Vaccines work best when given at the right time. Find out when your baby's next vaccination is due health.nsw.gov.au/vaccinate Protect bubba, don't miss a jab Find out when bubba's next jab is due	Details for your local Aboriginal Immunisation Health Worker: Name: _____ Number: _____ Email: _____ Working days/time: _____ January 2025 © NSW Ministry of Health. SHPN (IP NSW) 230455.	



Enhance community awareness and understanding

Aboriginal Immunisation Health Workers are employed by Local Health Districts and support individuals and communities to access existing services





Maximise workforce capacity to support immunisation

Aboriginal Health Practitioner Immunisers

- In 2024, NSW Health issued an authority to allow Aboriginal Health Practitioners to administer influenza vaccination after completing additional training.
 - In 2024/2025 training scholarships were provided to support more than 15 Aboriginal Health Practitioners to become immunisers.

Pharmacy immunisation

In 2025, the NSW Pharmacist Vaccination Standards were updated to allow pharmacist immunisers to administer influenza vaccines to people aged 2 years and over.



About the project

NSW Health is leading a program to support more authorised Aboriginal Health Practitioners (AHPs) to be able to immunise patients in NSW Health Settings. We are looking for AHPs who are interested in this exciting opportunity. This is part of a broader initiative to enhance integration of AHP within Multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) and support the growth of the profession.

In 2024/25 more than 15 AHPs in NSW Health were supported to supply by administration the influenza vaccine to patients and local community according to the [Authority - Supply of vaccines by Aboriginal Health Practitioners and the NSW Aboriginal Health Practitioners Vaccination Standards](#).

About the AHP Immuniser role

AHPs are a registered, skilled, health professional workforce who provide culturally safe health and wellbeing promotion, preventative health care and clinical treatment services in a diversity of locations including urban, rural and remote settings. They combine clinical skills with deep community knowledge. They help improve communication, trust, and engagement between Aboriginal patients and the health system.

Supporting AHPs to vaccinate in their own community can build trust and improve health outcomes. Aboriginal people experience poorer health outcomes, and a higher disease burden than the rest of the population. Influenza vaccination is funded for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 6 months and over, but coverage decreased across all age groups in 2024. Influenza vaccination coverage in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples was lower in all age groups in 2024 than in 2023. ([ref](#)).

This successful program has demonstrated the opportunity for statewide expansion with the aim to:

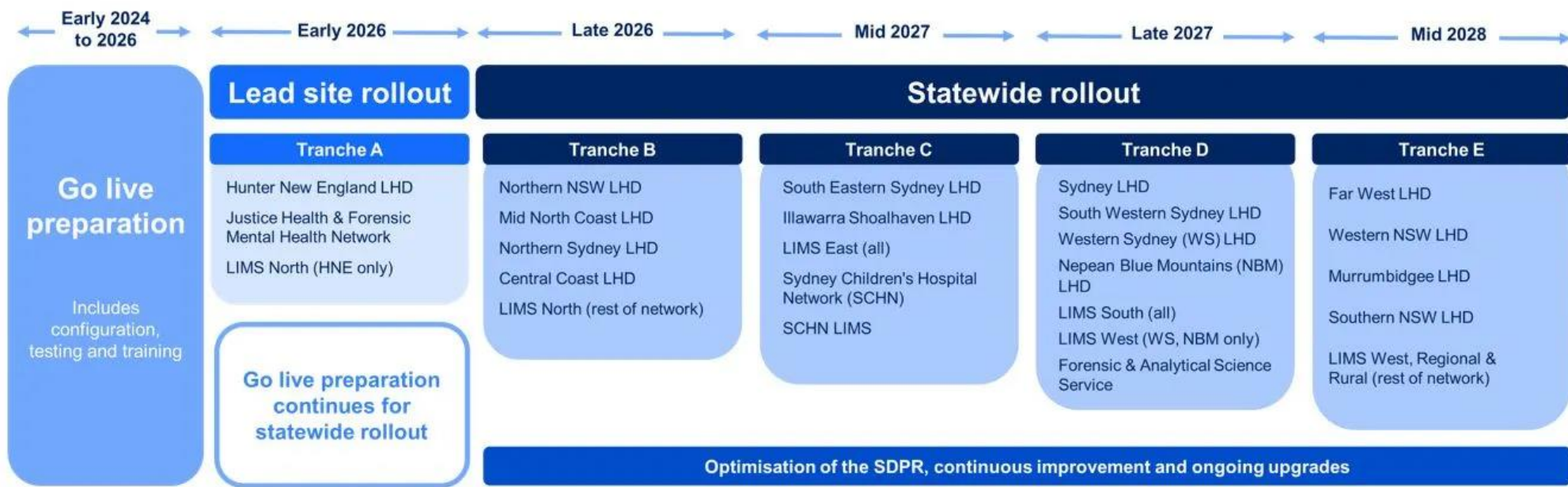
- Boost awareness of and access to vaccinations for priority populations.
- Provide an immunisation service which is accessible and culturally appropriate.
- Increase uptake of vaccination, reduce illness and hospitalisations, and improve health outcomes for the population.
- Enhance and promote the value of Aboriginal Health Practitioners in NSW Health embedded within multidisciplinary teams
- Expand the scope of practice for appropriately trained AHPs

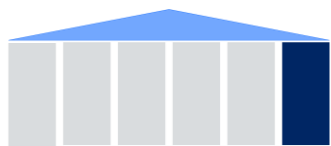


Optimise the use of digital systems to support programs

Single Digital Patient Record

- Integration with Australian Immunisation Register
- Decision support for high priority vaccines, including maternal pertussis, influenza and RSV





Prepare to adopt and implement new vaccines*

2024

2025

2026

Nirsevimab

Outcomes for Aboriginal babies in NSW:

74%

against RSV notification

89%

against RSV hospitalisation

Nirsevimab + maternal RSV vaccination

20 valent pneumococcal vaccine (Prevenar 20)

From 1 September 2025, Prevenar 20 replaced Prevenar 13 and Pneumovax 23 on the National Immunisation Program.

A four-dose schedule is recommended for Aboriginal children (doses at 2, 4, 6 and 12 months of age)

Intranasal influenza vaccine

Funded by NSW for all children between 2 and under 5 years old for the 2026 season

Immunisation is everyone's business

