



MenB Vaccine in the NT: Challenges and Opportunities

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NT Men B Vaccine Program

- Launched in January 2025 by the NT Government
- **Eligibility:**
 - Infants aged 6 weeks to 12 months
 - Adolescents in year 9 (14-years-old)
 - Catch-up program through 2026 – infants 12 months to 2 years
- adolescents 15 to 19 years
- **Financial commitment:**
 - \$1 million in the first 2 years
 - \$500k ongoing
 - Budget for extensive media campaign & purchase of vaccines
 - NO BUDGET ALLOCATED FOR ADDITIONAL FTE



Protect yourself against meningococcal B, a rare but serious bacterial disease.
Available through the NT School Immunisation Program.

The meningococcal B vaccine is now **free**
for adolescents aged 14 - 19 years.

NT School-Based Immunisation Program

SBIP overseen by Primary Health Care (PHC) not CDC

Health Promoting School Nurses (HPSN) based in middle schools

PHC guidelines only included years 7 & 9 in the SBIP

Resistance to change: reluctance from HPSN to include years 10-12



The push forward: CDC Immunisation Unit Steps In

- Engaged with NT Health Executive team
- Established the Men B Blitz Planning Group
- CDC appoints dedicated Blitz project lead
- CDC offers administrative and nurse support on Blitz days
- Project lead liaises with schools & HPSNs to plan Blitzes
- 10 out of 15 high schools in Top End Urban commit to Blitz Program



The journey so far: Successes

2,750 year 10-12
students given Men B
Vaccine

Catch-up vaccines given
to 750 students

Good engagement from
schools & enthusiastic
response from parents

CDC identified barriers in
SBIP & advocated for
HPSN support



The journey so far: Barriers

Limited participation from
other regions

Ongoing difficulties with
consent returns

Still not seen as core
business by some School
Nurses

Poor communication up &
down reporting lines



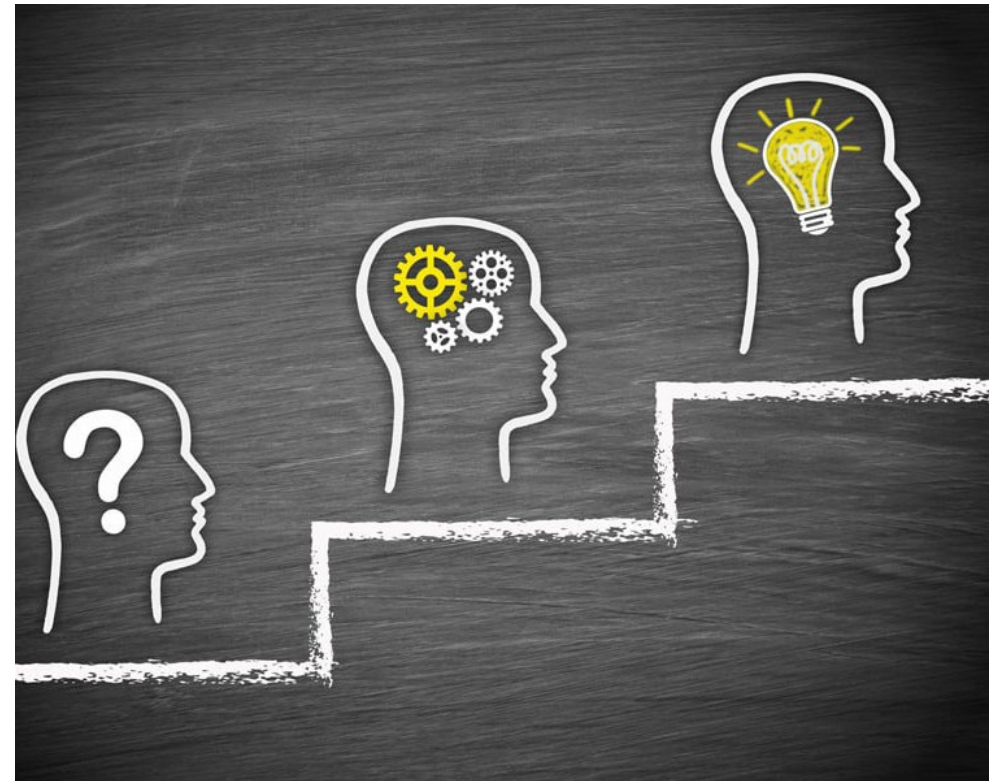
Influence strategies that worked:

- Early and transparent communication
- Identify champions
- Frame the benefits
- Be flexible



Lessons Learnt:

- Identify potential barriers early
- Secure executive backing
- Map communication channels
- Be part of funding negotiations



Thank you

Heather Parker

